

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## INSIDE



### Florida Regroups

Still-numb people sifted through the rubble of demolished and damaged homes and businesses across Florida on Sunday, trying to salvage clothes, photos, anything of their life before Hurricane Ivan.

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### Israeli Attack

An Israeli helicopter fired a missile at a car in Gaza City late Sunday, killing a senior Hamas militant leader, the latest Israeli attack in the territory it plans to leave next year.

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### Sopranos Wins

The "The Sopranos" became the first cable show to win the Emmy for best drama series Sunday and fellow HBO entry "Angels in America" received a record 11 awards as Fox's surprise comedy winner "Arrested Development" proved a rare bright spot for broadcast TV.

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# BB team accepts challenge

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

The tandem of incumbent Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday accepted the challenge of House minority leader Heinz Hofschneider and Rep. David M. Apatang, who have declared their intention to run for the CNMI's two highest executive posts under the Republican Party.

Benavente said he and the governor would respect the Republican Party's determination whether or not to conduct a primary election to allow all position seekers to compete as the GOP's official standard bearer in the 2005 general elections.

Benavente said the GOP has proven itself politically strong in its conduct of primary elections.

"First of all, I don't think they [Hofschneider and Apatang] will be selected [by

See BB TEAM on Page 12



Benavente

## Tourist run over, killed

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

A Chinese tourist was killed after a car veered off the road and hit her in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday night.

The victim, described as in her mid-30s, sustained serious head injuries from the accident. She was pronounced dead at about 2:15am Monday, becoming the ninth fatality from auto-related accidents this year.

PO2 Eric F. David, Department of

See TOURIST on Page 12



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### CALLIGRAPHY AS ART

Grace Christian Academy students learn the art of calligraphy from Japanese visitors Monday morning. About 15 tourists from Sendai, Japan participated in a cultural exchange program at the school, teaching traditional Japanese arts such as calligraphy and origami to first graders. The visitors, who will be leaving today, also attended a six-hour Basic English class at the Saipan Education Center Inc. during their three-day stay on Saipan.

## Sablan steps down as HANMI chair

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Pacific Gardenia Hotel general manager Ronald D. Sablan has resigned as chair of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, amid negative publicity resulting from the hotel owners' case in the Superior Court.

Sablan's resignation took effect on Sept. 15. The following day, HANMI named Sablan as an honorary member of the organization, in recognition of his long-standing contribution to the hotel industry. He was HANMI's longest serving chairman, having held the post since 1996.

In an interview, Sablan said he decided to resign from HANMI because he did not want the negative publicity about Pacific Gardenia to affect the organization's image.

"I think it was just proper that I step down," he said.

CDA has alleged that as of last Jan. 20, Pacific Gardenia Hotel and its officers—Ronald, Maria Ana, and Jeannette Sablan—owe CDA over \$2.4 million, and are more than five years delinquent in their payment.

Last July, CDA asked the court to appoint a trustee to manage and collect



Sablan

the profits of Pacific Gardenia Hotel until the case against the hotel's owners is resolved. CDA's motion is still awaiting decision from the Superior Court.

Further, Pacific Gardenia filed for bankruptcy protection last week with the U.S. District Court. The hotel declared an estimated asset of up to \$10 million and an estimated debt of the same amount.

"I'm a realist. I'm not ashamed to admit my situation. I'm facing the fact

See SABLON on Page 12

## Rota under flood watch

A new tropical storm is brewing south of Guam, prompting the Emergency Management Office to warn residents of neighboring Rota of possible flash floods.

The EMO said tropical depression 25W was

See ROTA on Page 12



Local



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

BRAD E. RUSZALA

Southbound traffic along Beach Road came to a standstill in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon after two vehicles collided upon entering the parking lot of the Shark's Fin Restaurant. Department of Public Safety traffic, rescue, and fire officers responded to the scene; however, they were unable to provide any details of the accident, pending the conclusion of the investigation. Members of both of the parties were taken to CHC, and were unable to assist the officers with the investigation due to their injuries.

Quitugua: La Fiesta transfer to save NMC accreditation

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

House Education Committee chair Rep. Justo Quitugua said the ownership transfer of the La Fiesta facility from the Northern Marianas College was “the best option” to save the institution’s accreditation.

“It’s the best option for NMC at this time to prevent it from losing its accreditation [with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges],” said the lawmaker.

He noted that the college earlier failed to secure from the Legislature the \$350,000 it needed for lease payment and operational expenses for the mall.

Quitugua expressed relief that the college had finally decided on the La Fiesta issue, noting that NMC had been unclear about their plans issue in the past months.

“For a long time, they didn’t know what to do with it,” he said.

NMC last week turned over the La Fiesta mall to the Governor’s Office. A memorandum of agreement, signed by NMC officials and the governor provides that the Governor’s Office will relieve NMC of all obligations over La Fiesta starting Oct. 1 this year.

These obligations include the annual \$200,000 land lease and the mall’s operation, which averages \$30,000 monthly after payment from tenants.

NMC would now arrange meetings with Hotel Nikko Saipan and Coco’s Lagoon Development Corp.—the original sellers of La Fiesta—to ask for their concurrence to the agreement.

This as the college expects a visit from WASC representatives this fall and is required to submit

its progress report by Oct. 15.

NMC is currently on warning status by WASC following findings of unresolved financial woes at the college. WASC maintained the status last June and expressed its concern over NMC’s inability to maintain two campuses in view of its acquisition of La Fiesta last year.

Meantime, the MOA contains a provision allowing the governor to lease the facility back to NMC for \$1 a year should the college come up with a proposed use for the facility.

NMC, then led by board chair Vince Seman, decided to purchase La Fiesta at \$7.5 million using a \$3.5 million federal grant from the Governor’s Office.

NMC had planned to use the complex for its Pacific Gateway project, which aimed to lure international students to enroll with NMC.

DPH

PACIFICA

*Island Snapshots*

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to [editor.tribune@gtepacific.net](mailto:editor.tribune@gtepacific.net). To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

# DPH wants to impose 90-day NCLEX for scholars

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health wants to require would-be nursing scholars to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses within 90 days after their program completion.

In a position paper on the nursing scholarship bill submitted to the House Committee on Education, DPH Secretary

James U. Hofschneider said the nursing scholarship recipients must agree to take the NCLEX “within 90 days of completion” of either an associate or bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Failure to pass the NCLEX within the period would be considered a default on their obligation and a cause for administrative action for repayment.

Committee chair Rep. Justo Quitugua said his committee will rewrite the bill based on the

input from concerned agencies.

He noted, though, that the committee is deemed to provide a more lenient provision on the NCLEX deadline. He said the 90-day deadline may not be prudent as students’ completion may not fit the annual schedule of the exam.

“The committee is not comfortable with the 90-day period. We’ll release our findings on this matter very soon,” he said.

So far, Quitugua said that

three agencies—DPH, Public School System, and Scholarship Office—have submitted their opinion on the proposed bill, which was introduced by Rep. David Apatang last month. The Northern Marianas College and the Attorney General’s Office have not turned in their opinions.

Hofschneider, meantime, in his letter to Quitugua, said that his department supports the bill, noting that his office had brought up the issue in the past with policymakers.

Commenting on the bill, House Bill 14-221, Hofschneider suggested raising the grade point average to 3.0 instead of 2.5 as a condition to receiving the scholarship.

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, in a separate letter, made the same recommendation.

The DPH said the GPA level increase would “better prepare entry level nurses for higher degrees in nursing such as the BSN and MSN.”

DPH further requires that a letter of formal acceptance into a Nursing Program should be a requisite, in addition to the letter of acceptance to the university or college. This, it said, is to avoid students that “intend” to enroll in a nursing program and decide to switch majors after getting the scholarship money.

DPH further prohibits the inclusion of online nursing programs, noting that the program must have real patient interaction and clinical assessments.

“It would be close to impossible to equate the competency of a nurse who learned how to draw blood from reading about

it online, versus a nurse who learned through reading and hands-on clinical experience,” said the department.

Hofschneider said he believes that attracting more local students into the nursing profession would alleviate the current chronic nursing staff shortage, mitigate dependency on off-island hires, and help in the overall effort to build a stable professional nursing workforce involving local students.

Inos, for her part, said PSS fully supports the bill, which she said was modeled on the teacher scholarship program of PSS that was created in 1997.

In addition, Inos proposed that DPH be required to delete the provision “any work experience” for CNMI residents who have graduated with a degree in nursing.

## Worker sanctioned for filing frivolous complaint

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
REPORTER

A nonresident worker was barred from working in the Commonwealth for two years for filing a frivolous complaint against a garment company.

Li Yan Ni was referred to the Division of Immigration for voluntary repatriation—or possible deportation if she refuses to depart the CNMI—after the Department of Labor found that her complaint against her employer was unsubstantiated.

Li raised numerous grievances against her employer, but the biggest was her assertion that there was too much pressure in the workplace.

Employed as a model-maker, Li said her work was too difficult for her and that her supervisors belittled her and verbally abused her because she was slow. However, based on her testimony, the real objection she had to model-making was that her lack of speed made her ineligible for overtime work and pay.

“The standard nonresident worker contract requires only that employers provide 40 hours of regular time work a week, so

it was not a Labor law violation for respondent to deny overtime work to complainant,” said hearing officer Jerry Cody.

Among Li’s other complaints were that she paid a \$10 fee to the Chinese Affairs Office in connection with her employment application; there was no water or toilet paper in her barracks; her workplace was hot and dusty; and her barracks was too small.

Cody said the fee was not a violation because it was not paid to or through the company, and it is too minimal.

An inspection by the Labor Department also showed that the garment company had made adequate provision for both toilet supplies and potable water in the barracks. Also, the heat and dust problems occurred while the workplace was undergoing construction. Thus, they were only temporary and have been cured.

Further, investigation showed that Li’s employer was in compliance with the requirement that each worker have 50 square feet of living space.

Li also alleged problems with food at the factory, and complained that the employer

deducted \$100 a month from her salary for food, whether or not she ate at the factory.

She, however, failed to prove that the food service was so deficient as to amount to a Labor law violation. Moreover, her contract approves the \$100 deduction for food. “It is in the interest of respondents’ employees to have food provided for \$100 a month, which is less than the actual cost of feeding a nonresident worker in the Commonwealth for a month,” Cody noted.

Li also failed to prove that the company discriminated against her by subjecting only Chinese workers to searches when they leave the workplace.

Even her claim that she did not receive a copy of her contract was dismissed, after her employer produced evidence that she had signed a copy of the contract in China.

“In summary, complainant has either failed to prove her Labor complaints, or has alleged facts that do not amount to Labor law violations, even if established,” Cody said. “Complainant has lost her right to remain and work in the Commonwealth by filing an unsubstantiated labor complaint.”

CARS

RMS

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# Two on trial for alleged loan sharking

A federal witness yesterday said that she paid nearly triple the amount of her original debt to two Chinese nationals now being tried by a jury for alleged loan sharking.

The witness, identified as Ms. Fu, said that she had borrowed \$300 from defendants Yan Jin Shi and Huang Jin Yong a.k.a. Ah Rhong or Ah Yong but due to the huge interest imposed by the two, she actually paid over \$800.

Fu, during direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney Jamie Bowers at the U.S. District Court, said yesterday that she had to borrow \$300 to be able to gamble at the Shanghai Store, located behind 777 Casino in Garapan.

“I lost a lot of money—thousands of dollars—in gambling,” she said.

She said she decided to borrow money so she could gamble some more, in the hope of winning big and recouping her losses.

She said that a staff, a certain Xing Ping who works at Shanghai Store, referred her to the two defendants. Yan, she said, also works at the store.

“Xing Ping talked to them [defendants] and they lent me money,” she said.

When asked, however, to identify the two defendants, Fu only recognized Huang, who was represented by attorney Perry Inos. Fu said it was Yan who handed her the money.

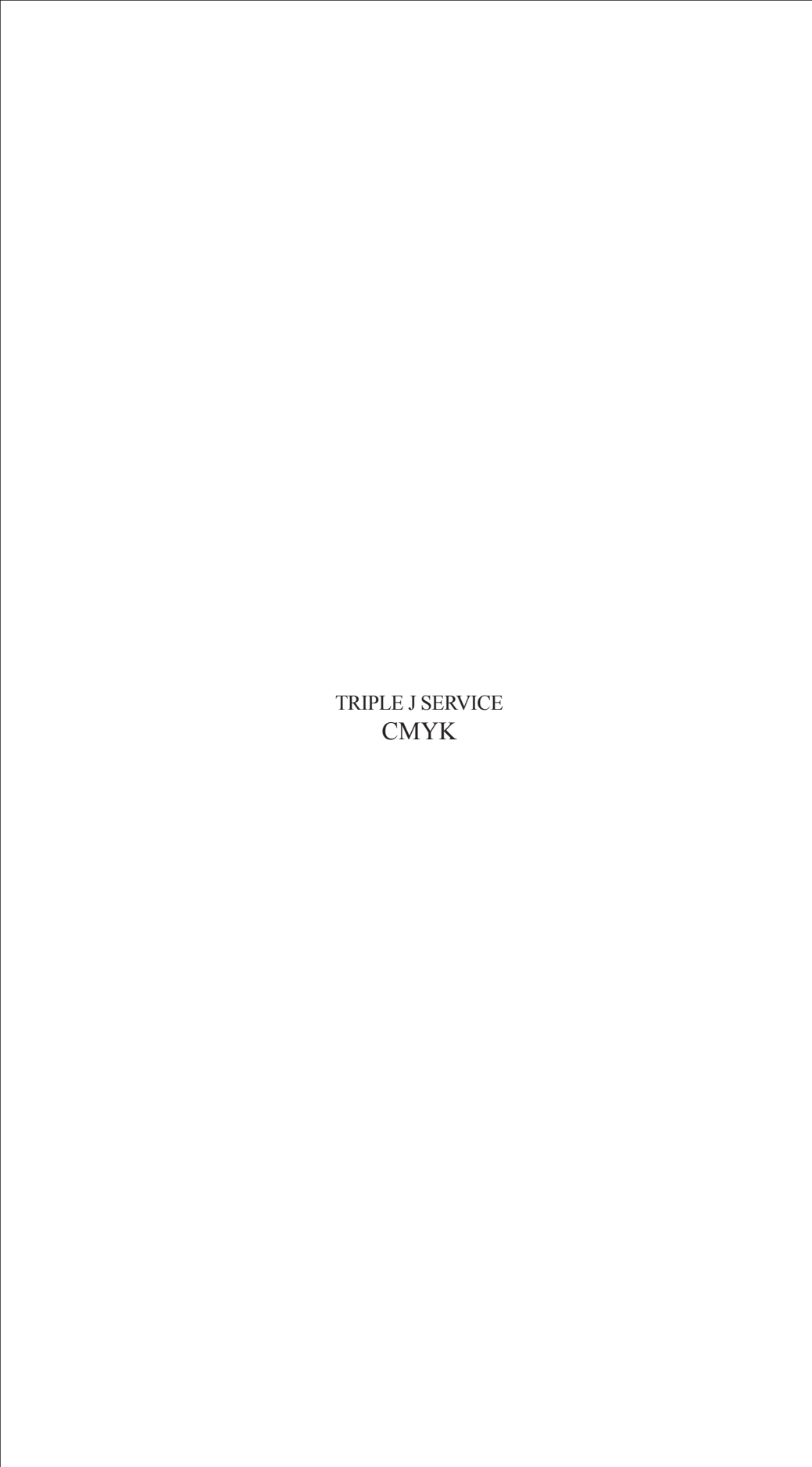
Further, Fu told the court that Huang and Yan threatened to throw her off Suicide Cliff when she could not pay her debt.

She said the two, at one time, got her into a car and drove her to the San Antonio area. “They told me that if I don’t pay they’d throw me off Suicide Cliff. I cried and begged for my life,” she said.

Since then, she said that she had consistently paid the two every pay day until she paid them a total of over \$800.

When asked, Fu said that the interest rate was computed daily at \$3 for \$100. She said that she later negotiated to lower the rate to \$2. Fu said she works at a garment factory, earning some \$800 every two weeks. She said she works an average of 10 hours a day with one day off a week.

Authorities said that lenders typically cannot charge more than 60 percent interest per annum. *(Liberty Dones)*



TRIPLE J SERVICE  
CMYK

# Babauta declares Disaster Preparedness Week

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed a proclamation declaring Sept. 20-24 as Disaster Preparedness Week, in a ceremony attended by local emergency responders at the Aqua Resort Club.

The declaration serves as a public awareness campaign on preparedness for natural and man-made disasters that may strike the islands.

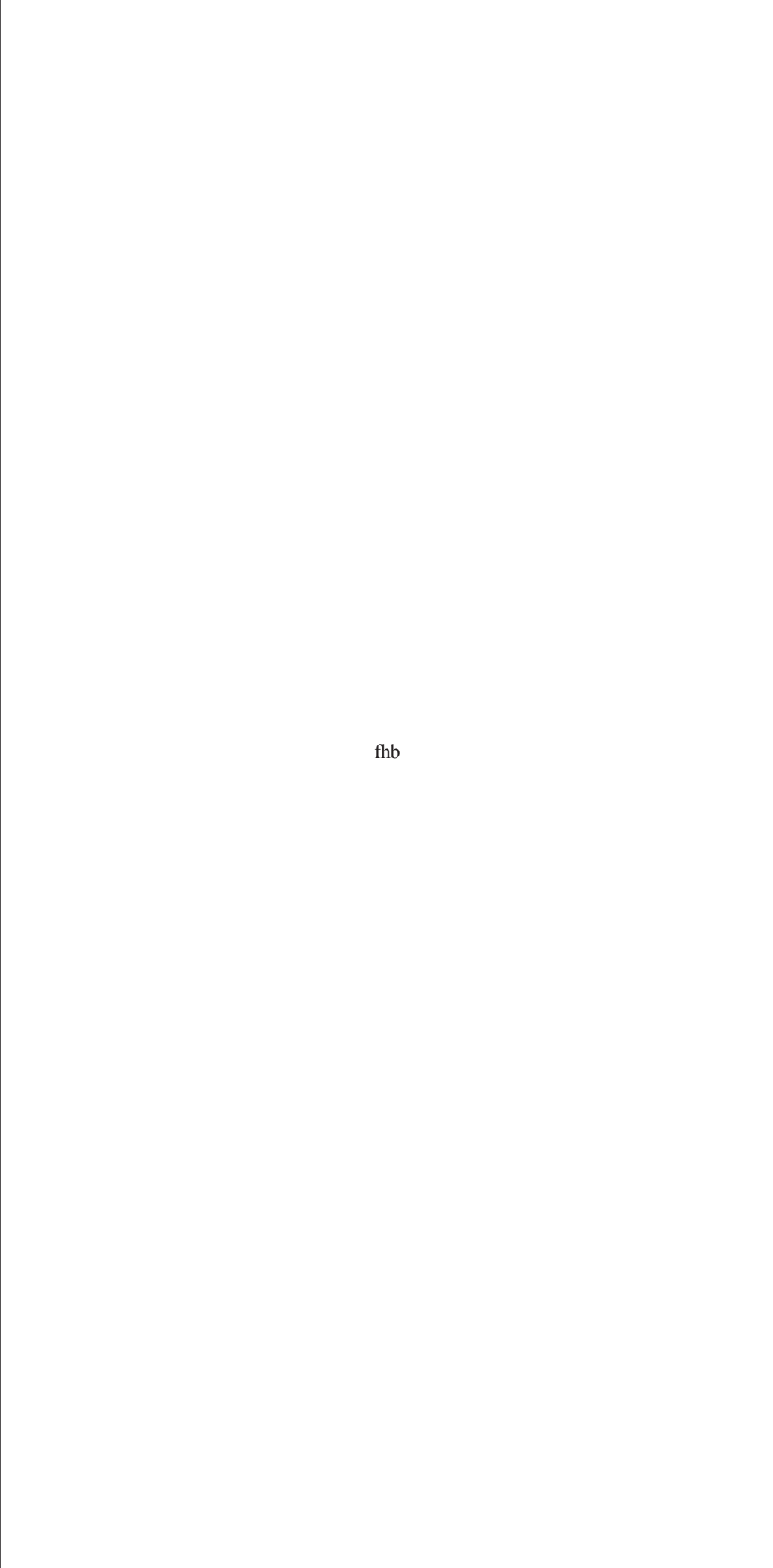
“While [disasters] cannot be prevented, [they] can be reduced in their effect through well-organized public education, risk assessment and mitigation,” said Babauta.

According to the governor, disasters not only claim lives and cause injuries, but also result in millions of dollars in damage and economic losses.

On June 28, Typhoon Tingting passed through Saipan, bringing with it record-breaking rainfall that resulted in massive flooding. On Aug. 22, Supertyphoon Chaba unleashed its fury as it passed through Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, destroying houses, chopping off trees, and causing flood on different portions of the islands. The northern islands of Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan islands also got battered by another supertyphoon—Songda—and tropical storm Sarika.

As part of the campaign, the Emergency Management Office scheduled emergency response demonstrations before high school students this week.

Hazardous materials and terrorism response demonstrations will be conducted at the Saipan Southern High School on Wednesday at 10am. Similar demonstrations will also be conducted at Mt. Carmel School and Kagman High School on Thursday and Friday at 9am and 11am, respectively. *(John Ravelo)*



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# Bill to designate areas for personal watercraft use

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has adopted a bill seeking to limit the operation of personal watercraft in certain areas.

Introduced by Rep. Clyde K. Norita, House Bill 14-241 would designate certain ocean water sites in each of the islands for personal watercraft operations.

For Saipan, the bill proposes to designate the ocean water stretching from the Garapan Fishing Base across the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, all the way to Susupe Basketball Court across Guma Hustisia.

H.B. 14-241 tasks the three legislative delegations to consult with their respective mayors and municipal councils in designating the sites for Rota, Tinian,

and the Northern Islands.

Personal watercraft is defined as "a vessel less than 12 feet in length which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet as its primary source of motive power and which is designated to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional [practice] of sitting or standing inside the vessel."

## Leong chosen as first APIASF president/executive director

**Washington**—The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund Board of Directors announced the selection of Timothy Leong of Orinda, Calif., to serve as its first president/executive director.

Leong, 50, has a long and distinguished career working in the corporate and public sectors, and is active in the Asian-Pacific American community.

"APIASF is most pleased to have Mr. Leong join us at the helm of the organization," said Robert Underwood, APIASF interim chairman. "Under his expert leadership, APIASF will be able to devote its full attention to building the infrastructure of the scholarship fund. Mr. Leong brings to APIASF many years of experience in corporate, community and media relations. Additionally, he is passionate about provid-

ing opportunities for students of Asian and Pacific Islander American descent who otherwise may not have the means to attend college."

APIASF conducted a national search for a full-time president/executive director. The executive search attracted candidates from every region of the country, said Wai-Ling Eng, APIASF Board Member and national scholarship chairperson for the Asian McDonald's Owners/Operators Association.

"We received a number of résumés from talented individuals," said Eng. After reviewing and interviewing several candidates, our task force agreed that Mr. Leong was the most qualified candidate for this position. We were extremely pleased that

so many people wanted to serve in this position."

Leong has been employed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco

since 1989 and most recently served in corporate community relations/external relations. While at PG&E, Leong coordinated and participated in the company's employee association scholarship drive. He also served as PG&E's spokesperson with broadcast and print media.

Prior to his tenure at PG&E, Leong was in the broadcast field and served as a public affairs producer/reporter at KCRA-TV in Sacramento and at KRON-TV in San Francisco.

Leong will start as APIASF President/Executive Director effective Sept. 20, 2004.



Leong

"Designation and centralization of personal watercraft operations will strengthen and enhance positive results in line with the government's strategy to rebound the CNMI's economic downfall," a portion of the bill read.

With the measure, it is hoped that sale of personal watercraft, accessories, and other related supplies will increase.

Further, the bill seeks to promote and stimulate development

of personal watercraft operation skills necessary for local or international racing competitions.

"With this act in place, owners, operators and fans shall enjoy the privilege of operating their personal watercraft for business or pleasure at designated water sites in a reasonable and prudent manner to enhance the highest standard of safety for all parties," the bill stated.

Speed limits will be enforced at designated sites,

once the bill is enacted into law. Dangerous maneuvers will also be prohibited.

Other restrictions include operating an unregistered, unlicensed, or uninsured personal watercraft; allowing anyone under 14 years old to operate a personal watercraft; allowing anyone on board without a floating device; operating a personal watercraft at nighttime; and operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row left to right, Barbara K. Merfalen, secretary Antonia M. Tudela, Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan, Board of Education member Frances H. Diaz, Board of Education chairman Roman C. Benavente and Chairman Gregorio V. DeLeon Guerrero. Back row, Board of Education secretary/treasurer Marja Lee C. Taitano and Board of Education member Scott Norman.

## Municipal Council lauds Inos and staff

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently adopted a resolution recognizing and congratulating Dr. Rita H. Inos and her staff, under the leadership of Public School System, for taking corrective actions to remove the CNMI Public School System from the high-risk grantee list.

The officers of the Board of Education consists of chairman Roman C. Benavente, vice chairman Dino M. Jones, secretary/treasurer Marja Lee C. Taitano, and board members Frances H. Diaz, Herman T. Guerrero, and Scott L. Norman, student representative Aubry M. Hocog, and teacher representative Ambrose M. Bennett.

According to the resolution, the CNMI Public School was

placed on the list of high risk grantees nearly a year after it was cited and sanctioned for failing to submit timely audited financial reports.

Through the commitment of PSS Personnel, combined efforts and the strong leadership of the PSS commissioner and the Board of Education directors in instituting corrective measures to comply with the U.S. Department of Education High-Risk citation, the PSS submitted the required financial audits, fiscal accountability, program performance reports and administration of program funds.

In an Aug. 11, 2004 letter to the Gov. Juan N. Babauta, U.S. DOF Deputy Secretary Eugene W. Hickok said the High-Risk grantee designation, which was

issued in Sept. 2003, has been removed due to "significant process" made by PSS in Administration Department Programs. The CNMI Public School System is the only Insular Area that has been de-listed so far.

The Resolution concluded by saying that the members of the council join the people of the CNMI in extending gratitude to Dr. Inos, PSS Personnel chairman Roman C. Benavente, the Board of Education, and other members of the Board, for a job well done in de-listing CNMI PSS from the high-risk grantees list.

The resolution was certified by chairman Gregorio V. DeLeon Guerrero and vice chairman David A. Indalecio and attested by secretary Antonia M. Tudela.

## Historic Preservation to map out goals

The Historic Preservation Office, under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately \$385,834 from the U.S. National Park Service for fiscal year 2004. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation Program.

Prior to finalizing the grant package, the HPO would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities and activities it should further undertake to enhance or strengthen its program. The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY 2004 and FY 2005 under this

two-year grant cycle:

- Conducting necessary surveys in advance of construction projects;
- Conducting surveys of the Northern Islands;
- Implementing and maintaining its Geographic Information System;
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places;
- Maintaining significant cultural and historical sites;
- Publishing the results of CNMI archaeology and historical data through the division's publication series;
- Educating the CNMI's children through school visits,

lectures, and fieldtrips; and

- Providing professional staff development training or technical assistance to the public

Interested individuals are invited to provide their comments to the HPO in writing. Written comments should be addressed to the Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, P.O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP, 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to [cnmihpo@vzpacifica.net](mailto:cnmihpo@vzpacifica.net). Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building.

PSS021

# Island Snapshots

Residents of Nagao Place in the Northern Marianas College area call on concerned authorities for the immediate repair of this road which has become a headache to motorists due to deep hollows and crevices created by recent typhoons and heavy rains.

LIBERTY DONES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

House Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez reads the resolution presented last Thursday to American Red Cross volunteer and leader Juan Tenorio Guerrero for his two decades of service with the organization.



MARK RABAGO

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Brubaker, two sitting on the right, listen to David MacDonald during his "Love at the Center" concert.

Marcia Schultz, Carlsmith Ball administrative partner and HANMI legal adviser, explains a point during a hoteliers' meeting held at the Marianas Resort & Spa last Thursday. The event was attended by 13 of the association's 15 member hotels. The association is expected to elect a new chairman next month. With Schultz are, from left, acting HANMI chairman B.K. Park, who also is World Resort Saipan general manager, and Michael von Siebenthal, HANMI secretary and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager.



LIBERTY DONES

Friends and officemates celebrate the birthday of Century Insurance Co.'s Larzie Granada Saturday at Paopao Beach



MARK RABAGO

Marlene Cruz, left, and Rita Cruz join David MacDonald in making hand gestures for the song "Trading my sorrow" during the gospel singer's brunch benefit concert at AJ's Restaurant last Sept. 12.



LIBERTY DONES

Larzie Granda, second left standing, of Century Insurance Co., celebrates her birthday on Saturday at Pao Pao Beach.

## CUC MEET

# Business



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Honest on Saudi Arabia

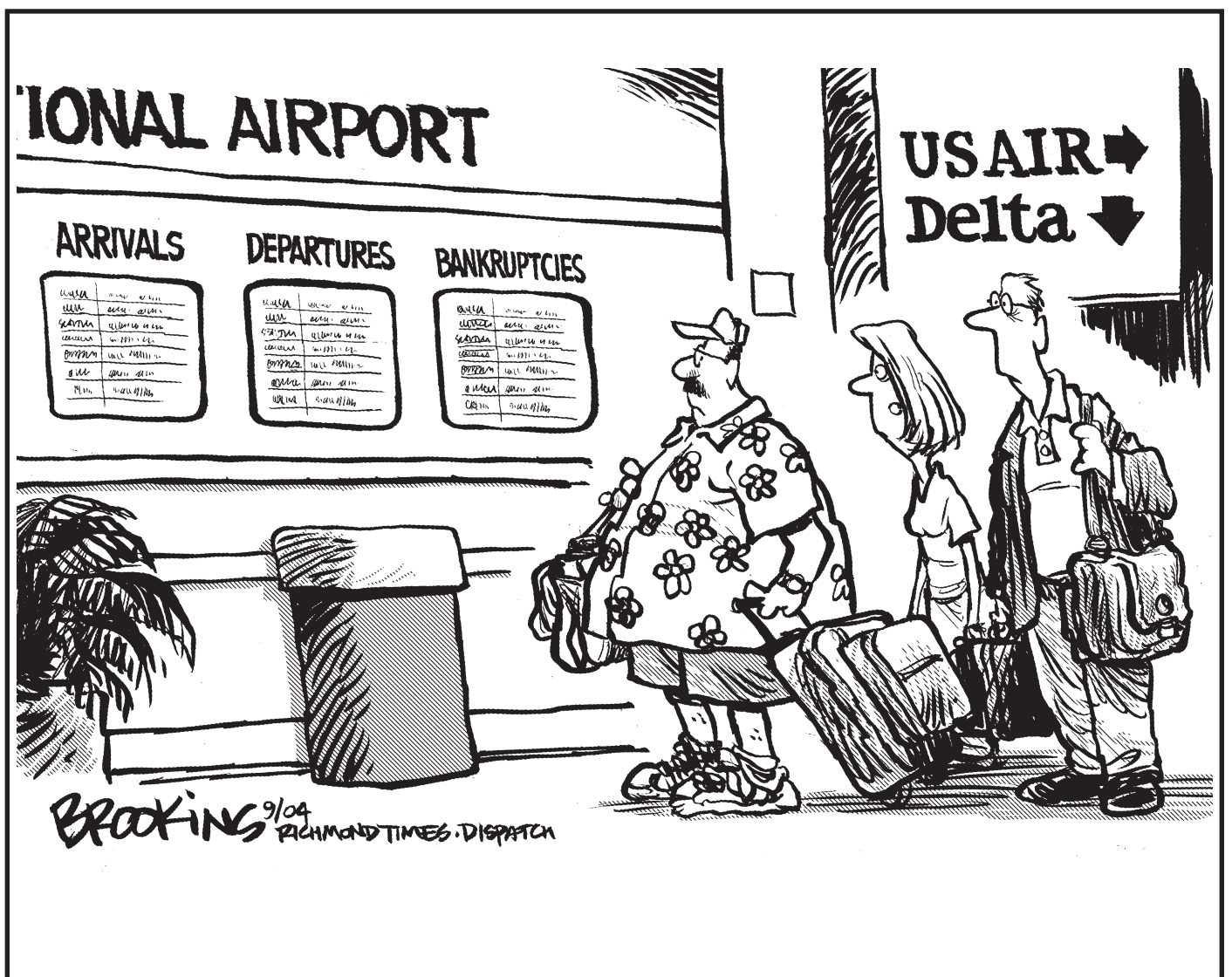
The State Department set the record straight this week on America's favorite totalitarian, theocratic monarchy. In recent years, even while cataloguing Saudi Arabia's affronts to religious liberty, the department flouted the law by declining to list the country as one "of particular concern for religious freedom" in its annual report on that issue. Now Saudi Arabia is on the list, correcting an error so blatantly political that it threatened to turn the designations into a joke.

The law on the subject is clear: The government "shall designate each country" that has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom" as "a country of particular concern for religious freedom." By any reasonable standard, Saudi Arabia has long deserved a prominent place on the list, which this year also includes Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Eritrea and Vietnam. In the kingdom, the State Department's human rights reports have long maintained, "freedom of religion does not exist." No religion other than Islam may be practiced publicly, and all citizens must be Muslims. Churches and synagogues are illegal, though substantial numbers of foreign Christians live and work in the country. Muslims who convert to other religions can be put to death. Shiite Muslims are discriminated against; their clerics are detained and their testimony can be excluded in court proceedings.

In explaining the change in the country's status, the department does not pretend that the situation in Saudi Arabia has worsened. To the contrary, the report notes that "there was generally no change in the status of religious freedom during the period covered by this report." In some areas, it even documents modest improvements. Nor did department officials offer a coherent explanation for their shift. Ambassador John V. Hanford III, whose office produces the report, said at a news conference that he could not say why Saudi Arabia had not been listed before his tenure but that he had now "had an adequate opportunity to dialogue (with the Saudis), to try to understand each other, to work on these problems, and we felt the time had come that Saudi Arabia should be designated." One thing seems pretty certain: Were the country not an important regional ally, the department would not have stayed its hand this long.

The designation may not have practical consequences, because the law allows the administration to waive the sanctions that the designation normally triggers if such a waiver is in the national interest. But listing Saudi Arabia is important nonetheless. It is sometimes necessary to engage dictatorial regimes, but it is never necessary to lie about them.

2004, The Washington Post



## Make our ports safer

By M.R. DINSMORE  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge met with a group of Seattle officials recently and told us he's sleeping better at night because our country is better prepared than before to defend against a terrorist attack.

When I spoke with him later, I said, "I'm glad you're sleeping better, Mr. Secretary, because I'm not."

I meant no disrespect. I have tremendous regard for Ridge and for the difficult job he is doing. But here's what keeps me awake at night:

Worldwide, there are 50,000 ships, carrying 9 million containers, calling at 3,000 ports.

In the United States we have 361 river ports and seaports. Every year we get 50,000 visits from 8,100 foreign ships. Every day 21,000 containers enter the United States. We can verify the contents of only about 4 to 6 percent of those containers. And it would require only one rogue container to bring commerce to its knees.

Imagine what would happen if a biological, chemical or some other kind of weapon arrived in one of our harbors. Every U.S. port would be affected as authorities worked to determine the extent and the source of the threat. Global trade could practically be shut down. And we don't have the systems in place to get our seaports up and running again. Our airports were operating a few days after Sept. 11, 2001. Reopening seaports would take substantially longer.

Retailers such as Target and Wal-Mart don't have giant warehouses brimming with inventory that can keep the American public supplied if trade is shut down. Even major manufacturers such as General Motors obtain some of their components overseas. Their inventory arrives daily in shipping containers, just in time to replenish stock or enter the manufacturing process.

At the Port of Seattle, where we run both a major international airport and a seaport, the security of our region is paramount. Our port commission has taken actions that have made Seattle a leader in improving U.S. maritime and aviation security. We have sought to lead by example by investing in technologies that have the potential to solve national problems as well as to eliminate those vulnerabilities under our own control.

But in reviewing the threats to our transportation network, I have to conclude that when it comes to aviation security, we may have overreacted. And when it comes to maritime security, we haven't done nearly enough.

Air travel is safer, and there are two primary reasons: reinforced

cockpit doors and the change in attitude of the traveling public. But the cost of increased airport security is too high. Passengers have to take off their shoes; they wait in line for up to two hours to get on an airplane. Nationally, we are spending \$5 billion to \$7 billion a year without adding much in the way of value.

It is a very different story at our nation's seaports. We're spending a fraction of what we spend at airports, on a far more complex problem. We do not have a comprehensive plan to know what is in the containers that arrive every day. We need to verify that those boxes are documented, loaded securely and protected against tampering throughout their journey.

We have made some progress. Working with the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard, law enforcement agencies, regulators, and customers, we and other port authorities have developed new security measures for our facilities, ships and the areas around ports. We have new rules about cargo manifests and have begun programs to extend our security into foreign ports.

Programs such as Operation Safe Commerce, of which Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., was a principal author and champion, do just that. But due to the frugality in our overall approach to port security, this program is still just a demonstration project. Increased funding for such programs is vital.

Ridge has said that funding for more robust solutions to container security problems will have to come from the private sector. But passing along the bill for security might very well drive our maritime customers and carriers to ports in Canada and Mexico. Waterborne commerce took a real hit after Sept. 11, as did airlines. Adding more costs would be counterproductive for us all.

What we need is for the federal government, and the Department of Homeland Security in particular, to produce a set of standards, practices and protocols giving clear policy guidance and to make intelligent investments to secure our ports. And we need a clear and agreed-upon process that would reopen ports quickly in the event of attack.

The Port of Seattle has been a leader in developing and implementing maritime security demonstration projects that will provide comprehensive container security while adding value by improving inventory control and expediting the movement of cargo. The technology and security protocols work, and they are available. We need to act on maritime security now so we can all sleep better at night.

*Dinsmore is chief executive of the Port of Seattle and a member of the CEO Roundtable of the National Defense Transportation Association*



# CDA: Go ahead with Pacific Gardenia receivership

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

Court appointment of a receiver for Pacific Gardenia Hotel can proceed despite the recent filing of bankruptcy by its owners, according to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

CDA legal counsel F. Matthew Smith said in a brief filed in the Superior Court Friday that only the assets of defendant's Sy's Corporation (dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel) are protected or covered by the bankruptcy automatic stay.

As a general rule, he cited that an automatic stay issued under 28 U.S.C. section 362 "does not protect non-debtor parties or their property."

In the Ninth Circuit, in particular, co-

defendants cannot successfully argue that an automatic stay reaches their actions and property if they are not also debtor parties in bankruptcy proceedings, Smith further said.

Accordingly, Smith said that the court retains jurisdiction to proceed with CDA's action against defendants, couple Ronald D. Sablan and Maria Ana T. Sablan, "and to appoint a receiver to preserve and protect their individual assets."

CDA said that individual assets that are known and that should be preserved by a receiver include their mortgaged interests in Lot No. 008 H 37; and their individual shares in defendant Sy's Corp.

"There are certain to be others as well, and only a receiver can gather,

preserve, and inform this court as to the exact assets available," Smith said.

Further, Smith said that the corporate shares held by the Sablan couple are not subject to any automatic stay and are not considered property of the bankrupt's debtor's estate.

As for the mortgaged property, CDA said that it can foreclose individual interests and seek appointment of a receiver "because there are superior and independent interests that were never consolidated with any corporate loan or interest of defendant Sy's Corp."

CDA further said that it can foreclose on these first and superior mortgages because it can do so without needing to receive a judgment or litigate against the corporation.

Smith said this was verified by the Sablan couple themselves when they executed a quitclaim deed of the lot.

By virtue of their quitclaim deed, they recognized that their quitclaim transfer to Sy's Corp. was subject to the previously recorded and independent mortgages held by CDA, Smith said.

Accordingly, CDA is not stayed from foreclosing the individual mortgages of Ron Sablan, Maria Sablan, or any other co-defendant, he said.

In the unlikely event that sale proceeds exceed the debt owed by these individuals, CDA would deposit the same with the bankruptcy trustee for distribution, in accordance with bankruptcy laws.

Pacific Gardenia president Ronald

Sablan had filed a petition seeking relief under chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy code and chapter 11 Small Business (as defined in the U.S. Code).

CDA asked the court last July to appoint a trustee to manage and collect the profits of the corporation until the case against its owners is resolved.

CDA said that the Sablan couple owe CDA over \$2.4 million, and are more than five years delinquent in their payment.

CDA said that its rights and interests would be irreparably injured unless a receiver is appointed to take charge of the business affairs of Sy's Corporation and to take possession of its property until a final decision or order from the court is issued following foreclosure.

## More people in the prime of life will die of liver-related diseases

**SHANGHAI, China**—Liver cancer, cirrhosis, and other diseases related to hepatitis B infection will continue to kill people in the prime of life and burden health systems with chronically sick people unless childhood immunization against hepatitis B is stepped up, the World Health Organization warned yesterday.

Hepatitis B control is one of the two new pillars—the other is measles elimination—endorsed by WHO's governing body, the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, to strengthen its Expanded Program on Immunization.

The region, which is home to only 28 percent of the global population and includes the CNMI, accounts for just under half (45 percent) of the world's hepatitis B chronic carriers and more than half of the global mortality due to hepatitis B. About 800 people die from hepatitis B-related infection every day, and most of these deaths result from infection acquired in childhood. Universal childhood vaccination with three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, including a birth

dose, is the most effective way of controlling hepatitis B.

"All countries in the region have introduced hepatitis B vaccine into their national programs. However, coverage levels have yet to reach the recommended level of at least 80 percent in most countries," Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, told the regional committee meeting in Shanghai, China.

Lack of resources, limited immunization coverage, failure to maintain vaccine supplies and the inability to deliver a dose within 24 hours of birth are derailing hepatitis B control in many countries in the region. Immunization coverage is also stagnating in some countries.

"More advocacy and social mobilization efforts will be required to convince parents and governments to invest in hepatitis B immunization," said Omi, pointing out that the impact of a hepatitis B vaccination program on morbidity and mortality takes a few decades to show.

On the other hand, many countries in the region are ready for or have already

reached measles elimination.

A target date for full measles elimination in the region will soon be set. "Measles elimination is technically feasible, but achieving it will require a high level of political commitment and financing," Omi said.

He called for continued concerted efforts, pointing out that "even in countries that have already achieved good measles control, there is still potential for large outbreaks if high immunization coverage is not sustained."

The 37 countries and areas comprising the WHO Western Pacific Region are American Samoa, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong (China), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao (China), Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Wallis and Futuna.

## TOURIST

From Page 1

Public Safety public information officer, said the victim was walking with her husband along the northbound lane of Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa when the accident happened.

The vehicle involved in the mishap, a 1989 black Volkswagen sedan heading north, reportedly veered off the road and struck the pedestrian.

At 11:51pm, an unidentified man called DPS 911 and reported the accident.

Based on preliminary investigation, alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

"The Traffic Investigation Unit is still finding out what caused the accident," David said.

He refused to identify the victim until the family has been informed of the incident. The identity of the driver of the vehicle will also not be released until the investigation is complete.

Statistics provided by the DPS Traffic Section indicate that auto-related accidents in the Commonwealth have escalated in the first six months of this year, increasing by 7.43 percent com-

pared with numbers from last year.

A total of 1,662 auto-related crashes were reported between January and June of this year, an increase of 115 cases compared with that of last year, which had 1,547 accidents. The number is on pace to surpass last year's total of 3,168 cases.

Of the 1,662 incidents, 245 occurred on January, 258 on February, 298 on March, 297 on April, 292 on May, and 272 on June.

Also, a total of 193 DUI offenses were recorded last year, 31 of which involved juveniles below 16 years of age to 20.

Once a group of thunderstorms come together under the right atmospheric conditions for a long enough time, they may organize into a tropical depression.

A tropical depression becomes a storm when wind strength reaches 39-74mph. A storm elevates into a typhoon when wind strength reaches at least 75mph. Once wind strength intensifies to at least 150mph, the weather disturbance becomes a su-

depression about 60 miles south-southwest of Hagatna, Guam.

Carrying 30mph winds, the tropical depression moved west-southwest at 10mph. The NWS predicted that 25W would further intensify.

"Tropical storm conditions, including damaging winds of 39mph or more, are possible tonight and Tuesday morning," the EMO said yesterday afternoon in a public advisory. Intermittent showers dampened roads on Saipan yesterday.

## SABLAN

From Page 1

that we have a problem that we need to solve," Sablan said.

Nevertheless, HANMI's chair for the past eight consecutive years maintained that he will continue contributing to the organization.

"I feel very much part of HANMI. I will come back. I just need to get rid of the negative issues around me right now," he said.

Sablan said a new HANMI chair cannot be elected until the group's rules on chairmanship have been amended.

HANMI's bylaws state that a chairman must have at least a full year of service as an officer prior to election. All of the existing officers in HANMI's board are new, Sablan said.

For the meantime, World Resort Saipan general manager B.K. Park is acting as HANMI chair.

In a meeting held at the Marianas Resort & Spa last Thursday, HANMI members elected two new board members to fill vacancies on the board. They are Lynn Knight, general manager of Century Hotel, and Yutaka Fujita, general manager of Hotel Nikko Saipan.

During the meeting, HANMI legal adviser Marcia Schultz recognized Sablan for guiding the association throughout the years. "We owe him a lot," said Schultz.

Michael von Siebenthal, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager and HANMI secretary, expressed his sincere thanks to Sablan for his "untiring efforts in achieving the best possible

solutions for the hotel and tourism industry on Saipan as well as for the benefits of the community."

Park, who came on board this year as HANMI vice chair, said, "It was such a pleasure to assist him. Mr. Sablan and all of our board members had a very good relationship together. As HANMI chairman, Mr. Sablan showed his highly qualified ability in carrying out his work. I would like to shower him with praises on his conduct."

Sablan led the association in an active campaign with the community, private sector and government to help represent the interests of the hotel industry during the economic downturn brought about by the 1997 Asian currency crisis, 9/11, and the SARS outbreak, among other events.

Sablan, along with co-founders that included former Aqua Resort Club general manager Mark Murai, set up a charity fund from which donations were made to various civic groups like KARIDAT, American Red Cross and the CHC Volunteers.

Likewise, HANMI has been able to set up an educational fund for deserving students, and is currently working with the Northern Marianas College on funding a tourism scholarship program.

HANMI's community involvement is also showcased in several activities including the annual Christmas luncheon for the man'amko and support for the MY WAVE Tourism Clubs.

HANMI was organized in 1988 as a non-profit organization for the hotel industry.

## BB TEAM

From Page 1

the GOP to become standards bearers for governor and lieutenant governor]," Benavente said.

Benavente said that, at this stage when the administration still has over a year to complete its term of office, he and Babauta are not focused yet on political campaigning.

"We're still moving forward in our commitment to the Commonwealth," he said.

Hofschneider and Apatang declared their intention to run for governor and lieutenant governor under the Republican Party in a letter to GOP chair Juan S. Reyes last Friday. They asked Reyes for the conduct of a primary election within the Republican Party to ensure that the party's political strength would not be eroded by partisanship.

Their declaration came days after

Babauta publicly announced his intention to seek reelection with running mate Benavente during a GOP fundraising event at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, which was also the governor's birthday celebration.

Reyes could not be reached for comment as of press time as he is reportedly in Arizona.

The Republican Party became the first political group in the CNMI to be recognized by its national counterpart, a development that the Babauta administration sees as boosting the party's advantage in next year's general elections.

Majority of the members of the U.S. Republican Party's national rules committee voted in favor of the CNMI Republican Party's recognition, amid lobbying efforts by Reyes and Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio.

With the recognition, the local party may seek support from the national party and its members.

## ROTA

From Page 1

expected to intensify to a storm last night and bring heavy rainfall on Rota and intermittent showers on Saipan and Tinian.

EMO director Rudolfo Pua also warned beachgoers and small sea vessels of high surf off Saipan and Tinian.

As of 1pm yesterday, the National Weather Service located the tropical

# Nation

## Workers aid Florida hurricane victims

By **BILL KACZOR**  
AP WRITER

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)**—Hundreds of relief workers fanned out across Florida on Sunday to help still-numb families. Motorists waited in lines miles long to buy gas and get free food, ice and water. People of all ages sifted through the rubble of demolished and damaged homes and businesses, trying to salvage clothes, photos, anything of their life before Hurricane Ivan.

President Bush visited the Pensacola area and Alabama on Sunday—his third such visit for Florida—and flew by helicopter over parts hit hardest when Ivan howled ashore Thursday with 130 mph wind. The hurricane spawned deadly tornadoes and a huge storm surge that gutted homes and businesses, washed out roads and bridges and knocked out power.

“Hang in there,” the president told residents as he walked along a street where Ivan obliterated dozens of homes, leaving lawns littered with broken lamps, clothes dryers, windows, chairs and microwaves.

While Bush came to console hurricane victims, the presidential election was not far from anyone’s mind in a state that helped determine the 2000 race and an area filled with Republican-leaning military personnel and retirees. One resident held up a dilapidated piece of cardboard scrawled with the words: “George Bush. You have our vote!”

Lynn Woodruff, whose home was heavily damaged and whose family restaurant across the street was demolished, spoke briefly with Bush. “Out of



President Bush, second right, walks with Al Boyd as he tours the remains of his home which was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004 in Pensacola, Fla. The president toured hurricane damaged parts of Florida and Alabama Sunday.

something bad, at least he made you feel good,” she said.

In Pensacola, the Rev. Russell Levenson of Christ Episcopal Church gave his congregation “permission slips” Sunday to grieve for their lost possessions. Then he urged them to look for hope.

“Maybe you lost the trees, but not the house. Maybe you lost the house, but not the stuff in it,” he said. “Maybe you lost everything, but you’re still here.”

And they were, worshipping in a large meeting room because their church bell had fallen through the roof.

Ivan’s path across the South and Northeast left at least 50 people dead, 16 of them in Florida. Earlier, it was blamed for 70 deaths in the Caribbean. The president has declared disaster areas in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina, freeing up federal money for temporary housing and home repairs,

### *Ivan’s wreckage extends into rural Ala.*

**ATMORE, Ala. (AP)**—As President Bush viewed Hurricane Ivan wreckage on Alabama’s coast Sunday, many in its rural hamlets felt they were without not just power and water, but also the government’s attention.

“We’re just forgotten,” said Gordon Lightfoot, an Atmore businessman.

Lightfoot, 63, said President Bush, who toured the Alabama coast and the Florida panhandle Sunday, also should have viewed Escambia County’s destruction. Lightfoot’s home survived, but a tree fell on his car and “poor folks have a hard time getting around with no gas,” he said.

While much of the focus has been on coastal destruction, frayed nerves have begun to show in rural communities inland, where some are without power, water, homes or jobs. More than 300,000 homes and businesses remained without power across the state Sunday, and residents expressed frustration with what they saw as a slow response to restoring power and delivering aid.

“We’ve had two disasters,” Brewton Mayor Ted Jennings told Gov. Bob Riley, who was touring the

area Saturday. “One was Ivan, and the other is the lack of responsibility from the state of Alabama. I’m not sure which one is the worst.”

“I wouldn’t be down here today if I didn’t care about you,” Riley responded.

Later, Riley told the Montgomery Advertiser, “They are tired. They’re all mad. If I was mayor of these towns, I’d be upset, too.”

Ivan cut through Atmore, Brewton and Flomaton—all on the violent eastern edge of the hurricane’s eye, according to the National Weather Service’s preliminary analysis.

Carolyn Carter said the “wind took the whole top off” of her home outside Atmore, about 50 miles northeast of Mobile. She moved in with her son and doesn’t know if the house can be saved.

Vehicles ringed a shopping center parking lot Sunday to reach trucks where crews distributed food, ice and water in the government’s relief effort.

Community water systems serve many of the smaller towns, but those living far off the beaten track depend on wells for drinking water.

low-cost loans and other programs.

Escambia County, Fla., bore the brunt of Ivan’s storm surge and wind, which damaged bridges that cross its bays and connect the mainland to the barrier island of Santa Rosa Island. It left virtually all the county’s 300,000 residents without power, water and sewer service.

Many residents who waited in long

lines for food, ice and water seemed to take the hardships in stride.

Lowell Weaner, 58, waited 1 1/2 hours in a line of cars that snaked for blocks into a distribution site. He lost some roof shingles and a tree fell on his house.

“We’re all in the same boat,” he said. “It’s frustrating but it’s not just you, it’s everybody.”

## Hurricane Karl stays in open Atlantic

**MIAMI (AP)**—Hurricane Karl gained strength Sunday but remained on a course that will keep it in the open tropical Atlantic, a threat only to shipping, forecasters said.

Karl, the seventh hurricane this season, had top sustained winds near 135 mph and was expected to get stronger in the next day, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

At 5 p.m. EDT, Karl was centered about 1,155 miles east of the Lesser Antilles in the southeastern Caribbean and was moving west-northwest near 10 mph.

Karl comes on the heels of Tropical Storm Jeanne, which was near the southeastern Bahamas and drifting north-northwest away from the islands toward open seas, where it could gain strength. Jeanne has been blamed for 38 deaths in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Karl is the 11th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

## Bush, Kerry tentatively OK three debates

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The campaigns of President Bush and Sen. John Kerry tentatively have agreed to a series of three debates that both sides hope will give them momentum in the closing weeks of the presidential election campaign, a person familiar with the debate negotiations said Sunday night.

The agreement, not yet final, calls for the presidential debates to be spread over a two-week period beginning Sept. 30.

Details of the debates were being negotiated by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III for Bush and attorney Vernon Jordan for Kerry. It was not clear when any agreement would be announced. The Bush campaign denied that there was a deal.

“No deal has been reached. Reports of a tentative agreement—I don’t even know what that means—are false,” said Nicolle Devenish, communications director for the Bush campaign. She said Baker had told his staff there was not a deal.

But a person familiar with the debate negotiations said there was a tentative deal for three debates but that some details were still being worked out. The person spoke on condition of anonymity since the agreement is not final.

The tentative agreement also calls for one vice presidential debate on Oct. 5 between Vice President Dick Cheney



Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry speaks at a fund-raiser in Boston, Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004.

and Sen. John Edwards, Kerry’s running mate.

The source said the two campaigns have agreed on the dates and sites proposed by the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates - Sept. 30 at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.; Oct. 8 at Washington University in St. Louis; and Oct. 13 at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

The co-chairmen of the debate commission told representatives for Bush

and Kerry on Wednesday that they must act immediately to finalize details for the debates, with the first only two weeks away.

The Kerry campaign agreed last month to the commission’s proposal for venues, dates and moderators for three debates involving the presidential candidates and one for the vice presidential candidates. However, the Bush campaign would not commit to the proposal.

With a guaranteed television audience of tens of millions of people, the debates could have a major impact because of the closeness of the race and the voters who still count themselves as undecided.

In a poll by the Pew Research Center, 29 percent of those surveyed said the debates would matter in deciding how they would vote. Some 68 percent said their minds were already made up.

Those undecided voters could make a huge difference. According to a Nielsen survey, 46.6 million people watched the first debate between Bush and Al Gore in 2000. The second and third debates drew audiences of 37.6 million, and 37.7 million, respectively.

In 2000, Bush and Democratic nominee Al Gore debated three times in 90-minute sessions in October. Their running mates debated once that month. For the third presidential debate, Bush and Gore answered questions posed by undecided voters from the St. Louis area during a town-hall session.

The three presidential debates between Bush and Gore drew television audiences ranging from 37 million to 47 million people, according to the commission, the first debate gaining the largest audience. The vice presidential debate was viewed by more than 28 million people.

# Wife of Iraq hostage pleads for release

ATLANTA (AP)—The wife of one of three construction workers taken hostage in Iraq pleaded for her husband's freedom, saying their 13-year-old daughter "misses her father very much."

A group linked to al-Qaida threatened in a videotape Saturday to behead the three men within two days. It was the first word on the fate of Jack Hensley, 48, of Marietta, fellow American Eugene Armstrong and Briton Kenneth Bigley since they were kidnapped from their Baghdad home two days earlier.

"Jack is a simple, generous man who loves the Iraqi people and has made many friends while in Iraq," Patty Hensley said in an interview with CNN, broadcast late Saturday.

"Since Jack has been a guest in your country, he has been treated with honor and dignity. We ask for your mercy in freeing Jack and his co-workers so that they can continue to return home to their loving families," she said.

The militants' videotape, broadcast by Al-Jazeera television, showed the men blindfolded.

Patty Hensley told CNN she last communicated with her husband by e-mail, and believes he was taken hostage within about 45 minutes after they signed off.

"We have a daughter that doesn't understand," Hensley told CNN. "I've known the man 23 years. He's one of the kindest, gentlest people, who wanted to help. ... He has no military affiliations. He's not there to fight. He's there to help the Iraqi people."

The three men were employed by Gulf Services Co., a Middle East-based construction firm.

The Tawhid and Jihad group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded the release of Iraqi women detained in two American prisons.

About 120 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq, and many have been killed by their captors. Another militant group beheaded three kidnapped Iraqi Kurd militiamen in a video posted on a Web site on Saturday.

Hensley's younger brother, Ty Hensley, told FOX News Channel: "I know that the Iraqi people are good people, and they want him to be released."

He said his brother's abductors had not tried to contact anyone with their demands, instead distributing the video "for propaganda purposes, their cause. They have not made a sincere effort to



This is an image made Saturday Sept 18, 2004, from a Web site known for its Islamic militant content which shows a man apparently take hostage on Thursday in Iraq who identified himself as Jack Hensley an American.

achieve their objectives."

"He was my, or is my, person who helped raise me. He coached my T-ball

team growing up," Ty Hensley said.

"He is not a person they should be killing to help their cause."

# Letter on Iraq still makes waves in Ariz.

PHOENIX (AP)—The letter to the editor was printed over nine months ago but its effect is still reverberating through Arizona. The Dec. 2 letter in the Tucson (Ariz.) Citizen made a suggestion on how to end "the horror" of American soldiers being killed in Iraq: Go to the nearest mosque and kill five Muslims.

In response, fearful Muslims kept their children home from religious school.

The Gannett Co. newspaper received numerous protest letters from readers, issued an apology and sent staff members to meet with members of a local mosque. Then the controversy moved to the courts.

Two men on Jan. 13 filed a class-ac-

tion lawsuit against the newspaper on behalf of Islamic-Americans, and the Arizona Supreme Court is being asked to decide whether to overturn a trial judge's ruling allowing the newspaper to be sued for alleged distress caused by what it printed.

The newspaper argues that its First Amendment rights protect it from such lawsuits, but the plaintiffs contend that the newspaper, by choosing to publish the letter, crossed the line.

"You can express your opinion but not—especially with what's going on in the Middle East—if you put some people's lives at risk," said plaintiff Aly Elleithe, an accountant and immigrant from Egypt. "Somebody has to be ac-

countable for what they did."

The Citizen argues that the most fundamental of First Amendment freedoms—the right to engage in robust political debate—is at stake.

"If the trial court's ruling is allowed to stand, political speech that falls well short of advocating immediate violence may be subject to sanction in Arizona—making this state a uniquely risky jurisdiction in which to publish news and commentary," the Citizen's lawyers wrote in the appeal.

Without any immediate physical threat to anyone, publication of the letter is constitutionally protected, the newspaper's appeal said.

Attorney Herbert Beigel argued,

however, that publishing the letter was not constitutionally protected because the letter "was a direct call to violence against innocent Islamic-Americans."

Judge Leslie Miller of Pima County Superior Court in Tucson on May 10 granted the Citizen's request to dismiss an assault count in the original lawsuit, but allowed the lawsuit's claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress to stand. A pretrial fact-finding is now on hold while the ruling is appealed.

"Clearly, reasonable minds could differ in determining whether the publication of the letter rose to the level of extreme and outrageous conduct," Miller wrote.



Police Chief Wayne Sampson speaks at a news conference Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004, about a carnival ride that broke apart during a church fair, killing a man and injuring two other people in Shrewsbury, Mass.

# Mass. fair accident kills 1, injures 2

SHREWSBURY, Mass. (AP)—A carnival ride broke apart during a church fair Sunday, killing a man and injuring two other people.

Shrewsbury police said the spinning-car ride came apart about 2 p.m. near Saint Mary's Church and parochial school.

"It was really just a nightmare, a lot of children crying, mothers crying, more blood than I've ever seen," said Kathleen Madaus, 44, of Shrewsbury.

Her 11-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, said she saw a man hit the ground after falling out of the ride, called the "Sizzler."

"I saw him about a foot off the ground and land on his face," Elizabeth said. "There were like 5-year-olds who had to see that and I feel bad for them."

Police Chief Wayne Sampson said two men were taken to UMass Memorial Medical Center. He said one of the men died at the hospital and the other is in serious condition. A third person suffered minor injuries and did not require hospitalization, said Sampson, who did not immediately release the victims' names.

A ride operator was taken to the po-

lice station and was giving a statement to police, Sampson said.

WCVB-TV reported that Jaro Amusements of Carlisle owns the ride. A man who answered the company's cell phone but refused to identify himself confirmed the company owns the ride, but said the company would have no comment until the state investigation is complete.

The parish pastor, the Rev. Paul O'Connell, would not answer questions about the incident. "I ask that you help all of us here at Saint Mary's with your prayers," he said.

The ride has three rotating arms, each carrying four rotating sets of two-seat cars in the design of classic 1950s automobiles. The ride is about three feet off the ground and parishioners said it does not lift into the air.

One of the cars was visibly damaged, and wreckage could be seen on the ground.

"It was a terrible tragedy," said Lynda Lopriore, 52, who saw the injured being treated at the Saint Mary's Family Festival, which has been held at the church for years.

Shrewsbury is about 40 miles west of Boston.

# Rodney King still searching for peace

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rodney King says he doesn't want to be remembered as the person who started the Los Angeles riots in 1992. King's videotaped beating by police shocked the nation. He uttered his famous plea, "Can we all get along?" as the riots raged after four white police officers were acquitted of his beating. The riots left 55 people dead and \$1 billion in property damage in Los Angeles.

"I'd like to be remembered for the person who threw water on the whole thing. Part of the solution, you know?" he said in an interview published Sunday in The New York Times. "I want to be remembered as the person who tried to keep peace in this country, that I did my part."

King later settled his lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles for \$3.8 million, but most of the money is gone.

King, 39, has since had a string of run-ins with the law, being arrested for things such as spousal abuse, hit-and-run driving and being under the influence of PCP. He walks with a limp since he lost control of his car last year, crashed into a house at 100 mph and shattered his pelvis.

Now he has written a rap song titled "Beat Down" and is working on a book about his life.

Asked if society has learned to get along since the riots, King said, "We're working through change, but it's a slow process. Race is the biggest problem we face in this country. I don't have to explain it, do I? We all know what's going on."

# Quake measuring 6.1 hits Aleutian Islands

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A powerful earthquake shook the Aleutian Islands on Sunday, but there were no reports of damage on the sparsely populated island chain.

The magnitude-6.1 quake hit just before 12:30 p.m., said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jamal Daniels, at the Coast Guard's long range navigation station on Attu.

"You could hear it before you could feel it," Daniels said. "It was kind of like a pounding sound, like somebody was pounding on the wall with both of their fists. The mirror started shaking, and the ground started rolling."

The 20 people at the Coast Guard station are the only inhabitants of Attu, Alaska's westernmost point more than 1,500 miles southwest of Anchorage.

The temblor, which was centered 90 miles south of Attu in the Pacific Ocean, did not generate a tsunami, according to the West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. An earthquake of that size could cause significant damage if it were to strike in an urban area.

Michael Burg, a technician at the warning center, said the quake also was felt strongly on nearby Shemya Island, where about 24 Air Force members work.

# Asia

## Iraq leader says violence won't stop vote

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS  
AP WRITER

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—The Iraqi prime minister insisted Sunday that the raging insurgency—which has claimed 300 lives in the last week alone and resulted in a wave of kidnappings—will not delay January elections, promising the vote will strike a “major blow” against the violent opposition.

Meanwhile, a grisly videotape posted on a Web site showed the beheading of three hostages believed to be Iraqi Kurds accused by militants of cooperating with U.S. forces. A separate group also claimed to have captured 18 Iraqi soldiers and threatened to kill them unless a detained aide of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr was freed, according to the Arab news station Al-Jazeera.

In another sign of continuing instability 17 months into the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, a suicide car bomb killed three people in Samarra—a northern city that U.S. and Iraqi commanders have portrayed as a success story in their attempts to put down the insurgency.

Over the past week, about 300 people have been killed

in escalating violence, including bombings, street fighting and U.S. airstrikes. Last week, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned there could not be “credible elections if the security conditions continue as they are now.”

But Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who is heading to the United Nations for this week's General Assembly session in New York, said his interim government was determined “to stick to the timetable of the elections,” which are due by Jan. 31.

“January next, I think, is going to be a major blow to terrorists and insurgents,” said Allawi, who spoke with reporters after a meeting with British leader Tony Blair in London. “We are adamant that democracy is going to prevail, is going to win in Iraq.”

Allawi, a Shiite Muslim, has been insistent about holding elections on time because of pressure from Iraq's Shiite community and its most powerful cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who fought for early elections. Reneging on the vote would risk angering the generally cooperative Shiite religious establishment.

Shiites, who are in the major-



Local residents stand near a truck after an improvised explosive device went off under it, in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday Sept. 19, 2004. The driver died and two persons were injured in the explosion.

ity in Iraq, are eager to translate their But several cities in the Sunni Muslim heartland north and west of Baghdad are out of U.S. and Iraqi government control, with insurgents holding sway, particularly in the city of Fallujah. That raises questions on whether balloting can be held there—and the legitimacy of elections held without ad-

equate Sunni participation.

Republican and Democratic senators urged the Bush administration on Sunday to face the reality of the situation in Iraq and change its policies. A major problem, said leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on CBS' “Face the Nation,” was incompetence by the administration in recon-

structing the country's shattered infrastructure.

“The fact is a crisp, sharp analysis of our policies is required. We didn't do that in Vietnam, and we saw 11 years of casualties mount to the point where we finally lost,” said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Vietnam War veteran who is co-chairman of President Bush's re-election

committee in Nebraska.

The decapitated bodies of the three slain Kurdish hostages were found on a road near the northern city of Mosul, said Sarkawt Hassan, security chief in the Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah. He said the three were members of the peshmerga militia of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The videotape, posted Sunday on a site known for its Islamic militant content, shows three young men, two of whom hold up identity cards. Seconds later, each has his throat slit and his head placed on the back of his body.

The Ansar al-Sunna Army—a Sunni militant group that said it killed 12 Nepalese hostages in August and carried out Feb. 1 suicide attacks against Kurdish political parties that killed 109 people—claimed responsibility for the beheadings in a statement with the video.

It said the three were KDP members snatched as they were transporting military vehicles to a base in Taji, 15 miles north of Baghdad.

The group said it was targeting Iraqi Kurdish parties because they have “sworn allegiance to the crusaders and fought and are still fighting Islam and its people.”

## Atomic watchdog unsure on N. Korea blast

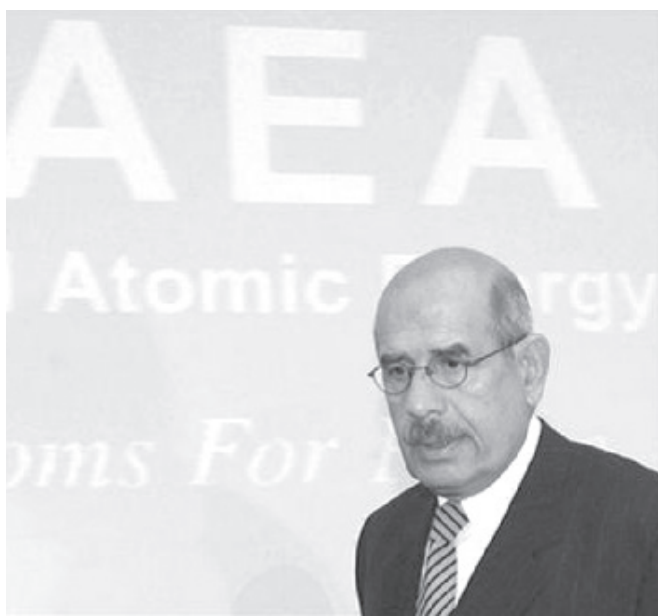
**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said Sunday he does not believe North Korea set off a nuclear blast earlier this month, but is not “100 percent sure.”

He said reports from other agencies with devices that monitor explosions suggest “that it doesn't look like a nuclear explosion,” IAEA Director Mohammed ElBaradei said on CNN's “Late Edition.”

“I am leaving the door open,” he said. “I think I would like to go there. ... If North Korea would like to exclude that possibility completely, they would be well advised to allow us and other experts to go and inspect that. As long as we are not there, I cannot exclude that possibility 100 percent.”

His remarks came three days after diplomats from seven countries were flown by North Korea to a remote site near the border with China on Thursday to verify claims that the Sept. 9 explosion was part of work on a hydroelectric dam there—not a test of its contentious nuclear program.

“One thing is entirely clear: This was not a nuclear explosion that happened at this site,” Sweden's Ambassador to North Korea, Paul Beijer, said Friday by telephone phone



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamed ElBaradei arrives for a meeting of the board governors of the IAEA at Vienna's International Center, on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004.

from North Korea's capital, Pyongyang. “This is a site where thousands of people are working on dam building.”

Video footage of the area showed dozens of workers swarming around a dusty construction site resembling a large dam project.

South Korea, meanwhile, has said a huge mushroom-shaped plume thought to be from the Sept. 9 blast was 60 miles away from the site where North Korea said it occurred

and may have been a natural cloud formation.

“We believe that there was no explosion in the place where intelligence authorities had previously suspected that there were signs of an explosion,” Deputy Unification Minister Lee Bong-jo told reporters in Seoul.

Lee suggested that Seoul concurred with the North's claims.

“We believe that the explosion described by North Korea ... has to do with a hydroelectric project,” he said.

## Japan pushes for permanent UN seat

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's military is one of the best-equipped in Asia and its economy is the world's second largest. It spreads its wealth around the world generously with foreign aid.

Tokyo now says there's a perfect way to acknowledge that clout—by giving it a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is expected to personally make his case for joining the ranks of five veto-wielding powers when he addresses the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday.

Japan has long campaigned for a seat on the council next to the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France. But Koizumi took the campaign to a new level when he adopted it as his pet project this year, ahead of a report by a U.N. panel setup by Secretary General Kofi Annan to study recommendations for reform, including possibly expanding the Security Council.

Critics, however, say Koizumi has been vague about what Japan would do with a permanent seat. Some say Japan would be unable to fulfill such responsibilities as authorizing a war because its pacifist constitution bars it from sending its own troops to battle.

“It is untenable to imagine how Japan could vote to deploy troops to take part in collective security contingencies without sending its own,” said Weston Konishi, a senior research officer at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation in Washington. “It would lead to real resentment.”

He said it is unlikely Japan will win a permanent seat, at least within the next five to 10 years.

Still, Japan is expanding its global presence in other ways, such as its unprecedented dispatch of troops as humanitarian support for the U.S.-led operation in Iraq.

“The political animal in the

prime minister understands it's an ideal time to try for a permanent seat,” said lawmaker Ichita Yamamoto. “It is in Japan's national interests, and it will also be in the interests of the United Nations.”

Yamamoto, a member of Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party, plans to keep up the momentum by uniting dozens of ruling and opposition lawmakers next month in a group dedicated to winning a permanent seat.

Tokyo is already a major backer of the United Nations. Its US\$263 million contribution was nearly a fifth of the 2003 general budget in 2003, second only to the United States' US\$300 million. Japan also pays hundreds of millions more for peacekeeping, development and other U.N. programs.

Now it wants some payback—“more respect, position, and prestige,” said Takashi Inoguchi, a professor at Tokyo University.

## Communist rebel, policeman killed in clash

**DAVAO, Philippines (AP)**—A policeman and a communist guerrilla were killed in a clash in the southern Philippines, police said Sunday.

The policeman stopped by a store in the mountain town of New Barile in Compostela Valley province on Saturday and a group of New People's Army guerrillas shot him, senior

Supt. Jaime Morente said.

The wounded policeman managed to return fire and killed one of his attackers and wounded another. He died en route to a hospital, Morente said.

The policeman had been assigned with other law enforcers and army troops to guard a remote forested region near New Barile that is now a bustling

community of a few thousand people after gold was discovered there last year.

The guerrillas, who have been waging a Marxist rebellion since the late 1960s and are on a U.S. list of terrorist groups, are active in Compostela Valley, a poor mountainous region 920 kilometers (570 miles) south-east of Manila.

# China completes 1st orderly power transfer

By AUDRA ANG  
AP WRITER

**BEIJING (AP)**—Hu Jintao became the undisputed leader of China as the country completed its first orderly transfer of power in the communist era on Sunday with the departure of former President Jiang Zemin from his top military post—giving a new generation a freer hand to run the world's most populous nation.

Jiang, whose term was to have run until 2007, resigned at a meeting of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee that ended Sunday.

Analysts did not expect Jiang's exit to affect Beijing's stance on relations with the United States or Taiwan, economic reform or other key issues. Jiang and Hu are not known to have had any major policy disagreements and both support continued capitalist-style reforms and one-party communist rule.

But the consolidation of the top party, government and military posts in Hu's hands will allow him and his premier, Wen Jiabao, to act more decisively as the government copes challenges such as wrenching economic changes and rural poverty.

Hu, 61, replaced Jiang as party leader in late 2003 and as president early the next year. But the 78-year-old Jiang, who led China for 13 years, retained influence by holding onto his military post even as all his contemporaries retired in a long-planned handover of power to younger leaders.

"This is a good, positive step because it finally completes the systemic change," said Sin-



Former president Jiang Zemin, right, shakes hands with Chinese President Hu Jintao during a meeting of the ruling Communist party's Central Committee in Beijing, in this image taken from Chinese television, on Sunday September 19, 2004.

ming Shaw, a China specialist at Oxford University's Oriel College. "To have someone as chairman of the party and not control the guns is very awkward. This will definitely make things easier."

A statement by the 198-member Central Committee said the handover of power was conducive to upholding "the party's absolute leadership over the military," the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said Jiang's resignation showed "his broad-mindedness as a true communist."

State television devoted its entire evening newscast to the transfer of power, extending

the half-hour program by 15 minutes.

An anchor read from Jiang's resignation letter, dated Sept. 1, saying he had "always looked forward to complete retirement from leading positions for the good of the long-term development of the cause of the party and the people."

There was no immediate indication why Jiang chose to cut short his term. But it might suggest that he felt he had succeeded in ensuring his political legacy—especially the addition of the pro-capitalist "Three Represents" ideology that he championed to the party's con-

stitution—and the interests of his family and allies.

The ideology, stripped down, it invites entrepreneurs into the party, redefining communism and daring critics to point out ideological contradictions.

The party spent nearly a decade preparing for the handover, hoping to avoid the upheavals that have accompanied earlier transfers of power.

China's communist founder, Mao Zedong, picked Hua Guofeng to succeed him on his death in 1976. But Hua lasted only a few months before being pushed aside by Deng Xiaoping, who went on to launch reforms

that fueled China's two-decade economic boom.

Deng dismissed his own hand-picked successor, Zhao Ziyang, in 1989 after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations and a power struggle that nearly tore apart the party. Jiang, a former Shanghai mayor, was almost unknown when Deng picked him to succeed Zhao and later to lead the nation. Zhao still lives under house arrest more than 15 years later.

Deng himself nominated Hu as Jiang's eventual successor in the early 1990s.

Jiang said in his resignation letter that he decided to leave the Central Military Commission after "meticulous consideration." He said Hu was "absolutely qualified for this post."

State television showed Hu and Jiang walking side-by-side in the cavernous Great Hall of the People in central Beijing,

greeted by thunderous applause from the Central Committee members as they posed for photos. Dressed in a dark suit and red tie, Jiang shook hands and waved to the officials.

"I am so happy to see all of you today," Jiang said. He called for the party to "work hard and keep advancing under the leadership of the party Central Committee with Comrade Hu Jintao."

Xu Caihou, 61, will succeed Hu as deputy chairman of the military commission, Xinhua said.

That was a surprise choice, because many had expected Vice President Zeng Qinghong—a former Jiang aide and protégé—to become deputy leader of the commission. It wasn't clear whether Jiang had lobbied for Zeng and whether the choice reflected a personal setback.

The 2.5 million-member People's Liberation Army is the world's largest military.



This is combo photo of Presidential Candidates Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, right, and incumbent Megawati Sukarnoputri.

## Opposition predicted to win in Indonesia

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—Indonesian voters hungry for change are expected on Monday to do something that was unthinkable during the country's three decades of authoritarian rule—toss out an incumbent president and vote in a political newcomer who has promised to crack down on corruption and revive the battered economy.

Polls show Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono with more than a 25 percentage point lead over President Megawati Sukarnoputri. Most analysts expect the former general will win the election in a landslide.

Police said they have deployed nearly 140,000 officers across the vast archipelago to guard polling stations. There were fears of a terrorist attack after an explosion outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Sept. 9 that killed nine. The blast has been blamed on the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Since the bombing, police said they have received 10 to 15 bogus mobile phone text messages each day warning of

terror attacks—including one Friday that said three trucks laden with bombs were heading for Jakarta with plans to attack either a shopping mall or house of worship.

"We have come to the conclusion that the purpose ... was to create chaos before the election," Jakarta police Chief Firman Gani said. "The information is false."

Monday's election will complete a democratic process that began in April with parliamentary elections. It was followed in July with the country's first direct presidential election, which was won by Yudhoyono.

But because he didn't secure more than 50 percent of the vote, the 55-year-old Yudhoyono was required to face second-place finisher Megawati in a run-off.

At her house in an upscale Jakarta neighborhood, Megawati received hundreds of supporters who clutched her photo and chanted "merdeka," or freedom. It was the rallying cry of her father, Sukarno, who founded the country.

## Protester turned lawmaker demands resignation of HK leader

By HELEN LUK  
AP WRITER

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Veteran anti-government protester Leung Kwok-hung, who won a seat in legislative elections, asked Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa to resign during a meeting Saturday but said Tung didn't respond to his demand.

"I told him directly that he should immediately step down," said Leung who frequently lashes out at Tung's rule in numerous demonstrations. "It's time for him to go home."

But Leung—known locally as "Longhair"—told reporters after the meeting that Tung gave no indication that he would quit.

"He said nothing. He just smiled," said Leung, clad in his trademark red T-shirt showing Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara. "I'm very angry. It was like talking to a wall."

Tung, a former shipping tycoon, was hand-picked by Beijing to run Hong Kong after the former colony was returned to China in 1997. Many ordinary citizens are deeply dissatisfied with Tung for his poor govern-

### ...as police arrest man for criminal intimidation

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Hong Kong police said they arrested a man on Sunday who threatened to kill a radical anti-government protester who won a seat in last week's legislative elections.

The 42-year-old man, surnamed Ng, threatened to "chop up" Leung Kwok-hung after a political forum Sunday, police spokeswoman Kelly Chan said. She said Ng was arrested for criminal intimidation.

Leung—known locally as "Longhair"—was confronted by an angry and mostly elderly

mob after the forum and police used barricades to separate the two sides. Many of the elderly people were supporters of the Beijing government.

"Why did they scold me? I'm not the one who makes their lives miserable. I'm the one who scolds the people who make them suffer," Leung said in comments broadcast by local network Cable TV.

Leung told reporters that some people threatened to "kill him and beat him." He later left under police escort

livelihood and environmental issues with Tung.

Leung said he demanded that Tung freeze cuts on welfare payments but got no positive feedback. Leung gave Tung a poem by a famous ancient Chinese poet to express his discontent for what he called Tung's exploitation of the poor.

"I feel like he didn't really want to listen to what we said and couldn't answer our questions," Leung said.

and officers also took away a 73-year-old man for questioning, Chan said.

Leung, who frequently criticizes Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa and heckles him at official events, held an unprecedented meeting with Tung on Saturday in which he called on Tung to resign.

But the highly unpopular leader, hand-picked by Beijing to run Hong Kong after the former colony was returned to China in 1997, gave no indication that he would quit.

In response to the criticisms, Tung's office said the Chief Executive is "sincere in listening to the lawmakers' views and in communicating with them." Tung said he would look into the issue of welfare cuts.

Leung has participated non-stop in anti-government protests to chant slogans and burn flags since British colonial days. He frequently scuffles with police and had spent time in jail over his protest antics.

# World

tribune graduation ad



Overdrive

New pickup makes Hummer look rather puny

By DAVID KOENIG  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

This one could make the Hummer look like a girlie car. International Truck and Engine Corp. is producing what it calls the world's biggest production pickup, a 14,500-pound monster capable of towing 20 tons.

"It's a super head-turner," said Ken Wallace, an International dealer in Fort Myers, Fla., who has been driving one for about two weeks. "Other motorists hang out of their cars to take pictures of it."

But does anybody really need a vehicle that is nine feet tall, eight feet wide, 21 1/2 feet long and gets about seven miles on a gallon of diesel?

Rob Swim, International's marketing director, said the 5-passenger CXT will appeal to image-conscious contractors, roofers, landscapers and other small-business owners who can use the towing power but also want to draw attention to themselves.

"This truck is for businesses that want to make a bold statement," Swim said. "It's for business people that want to promote as much as perform."

International, the operating division of Warrenville, Ill.-based Navistar International Corp., makes the CXT at its Garland plant. The mayor and

many of the plant's 700 employees attended an official CXT unveiling Thursday, although the truck has been in production for several weeks.

International makes about 85,000 commercial vehicles a year, from dump trucks to school buses. But it hasn't made a full-size pickup since the 1970s.

From the front, the CXT looks identical to International's other heavy trucks. International added a pickup bed to its truck chassis and dressed up the cab. One interior package includes leather seats, wood grain trim, a drop-down DVD player, satellite radio and a rear-mounted camera.

But without question, the most noteworthy thing about the CXT is its size. It weighs nearly twice as much as the Ford F-350 Super Duty pickup and is more than two feet taller. It dwarfs full-size sport-utility vehicles.

International says the CXT is the heaviest production pickup out there and boasts the most towing capacity. It comes with all-wheel drive, air brakes, a 70-gallon fuel tank and a bed that tilts back like a dump truck.

The price is also big—\$93,000, but options can boost that to \$115,000. Some other large pickups cost under \$30,000.

Company officials say they expect to sell nearly 100 this

year and 500 next year.

Swim said the company isn't marketing the CXT as a consumer vehicle, although he added that drivers don't need a commercial license to get behind the wheel.

"Anybody can lease a Hummer now for \$500 a month. Soccer moms are driving them," he said. "This is not a soccer mom's vehicle."



AP

International Truck and Engine Corp. is producing what it calls the world's biggest production pickup, a 14,500-pound monster capable of towing 20 tons. The 5-passenger CXT is nine feet tall, eight feet wide, 21 1/2 feet long and gets about seven miles on a gallon of diesel. The truck is manufactured in Garland, Texas.

Nissan to offer small car for budget youth market

By JOHN O'DELL  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Nissan Motor Co. said Monday that it would introduce a new small car to the United States in 2007 to compete for younger, budget-conscious buyers who might otherwise shop for used vehicles.

The model will be smaller than the Japanese automaker's compact Sentra, which starts at \$12,400.

The new entry probably will be derived from a Japanese-market Nissan, such as the buglike March subcompact or the boxy Cube, a sort of mini-minivan. The car would compete with Honda Motor Co.'s boxy Element sport utility vehicle and Toyota Motor Corp.'s youth-oriented Scion brand.

Executives at Gardena, Calif.-based Nissan North America consider an entry-level vehicle with youth appeal a

key to ensuring long-term growth in the U.S. market. Nissan, Japan's second-largest carmaker, is one of the fastest-growing auto companies in the United States, with its sales through August up 23 percent from a year earlier. Nissan's goal is to increase U.S. sales to 1 million cars and trucks next year, up from 794,481 in 2003.

But its growth thus far has been spurred by larger models, including the new Titan full-size pickup, that are generally too expensive for younger buyers.

Additionally, Nissan and other automakers have come under fire for promoting large, gas-guzzling models. So they are looking at small cars as a way to increase the overall average fuel economy of their vehicles.

Separately Monday, Nissan said it would redesign the Sentra for 2006.

joeten motors truck  
+BLUE

## Life &amp; Style

# Emmys heaps honors on 'Angels,' 'Sopranos'

By LYNN ELBER  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

The "The Sopranos" became the first cable show to win the Emmy for best drama series Sunday and fellow HBO entry "Angels in America" received a record 11 awards as Fox's surprise comedy winner "Arrested Development" proved a rare bright spot for broadcast TV.

Broadcast networks also collected performance awards for comedy series, but it was clear that cable's accomplishments were overshadowing the traditional networks.

"Angels in America," the miniseries adaptation of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about

matched the 11 won by "Eleanor and Franklin" in 1976, the most for any program in one season.

"The Sopranos" finally collected the best drama Emmy in its fifth try.

"This is really great and seeing those goodbye episodes before gave me some great ideas how to end the show," series creator David Chase said of "The Sopranos," which has one more season ahead of it.

Michael Imperioli and Drea de Matteo, who played a hard-luck mob couple whose relationship ended in betrayal on "The Sopranos," won drama series supporting actor and actress Emmys.

De Matteo says she didn't want to win because she didn't want to

ful," Spader said in a lighthearted acceptance.

Fox's "Arrested Development" proved another broadcast bright spot, winning as best comedy series after a freshman year that was critically acclaimed but low rated.

"This is so huge for us. You know what, let's watch it," said series creator Mitchell Hurwitz.

"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," which has spent election year skewering the candidates for tiny Comedy Central, won an award for best variety series for the second year in a row. His writing staff also won an Emmy.

Mirroring the concern in Hollywood over the state of situation comedies, the four major comedy acting awards went for work in series that are now off the air. Kelsey Grammer won his fourth Emmy for best actor in a comedy for "Frasier" and Sarah Jessica Parker won best actress for "Sex and the City."

"I had the most extraordinary life on television," Grammer said. "Frasier" was a gift in my life and the people that I got to meet and work with were the greatest and this is just the cherry on top."

Grammer paid tribute to the late John Ritter, who was nominated posthumously for "Eight Simple Rules."

"He was a terrific guy and his death was a shock to all of us. And he'll be missed, not only just for his kindness but also for his work," Grammer said.

David Hyde Pierce won a supporting actor award for "Frasier," which ended an 11-year run this spring, and Cynthia Nixon won best supporting actress for "Sex and the City."

The awards provided fresh evidence that the major broadcast networks, even as they open their new season this week, have ceded creative ground to cable networks.

Elaine Stritch became an instant joke subject for her over-the-top acceptance of the Emmy for best individual performance in a variety or music program. The 79-year-old veteran stage actress even tested ABC's five-second delay—better known as the Janet Jackson precaution—and had part of her speech bleeped out.

"Look at the company I'm in here. And I'm so glad none of them won," Stritch said before the orchestra played her off the stage.

Donald Trump and "Survivor" creator Mark Burnett found themselves looking on from the audience as a less-popular show, CBS' "The Amazing Race," won best reality series for the second year in a row.

Host Garry Shandling repeatedly

poked fun at the genre, joking about "Extreme Makeover," Paris Hilton and Trump in his monologue.

"It's to the point now when a commercial comes on I go, 'Thank God, professional actors in a story,'" he quipped.

"Angels in America" was the most-nominated program this year with 21 bids, and won four at the Sept. 12 creative arts awards for craft achievement. In his acceptance speech, Kushner used his time on stage to lobby for gay marriage.

"Thanks to my wonderful husband, Mark. Someday soon we can have a legal marriage license and you can make an honest homosexual out of me," he said.

Hyde Pierce was honored for the fourth time as best supporting actor for "Frasier."

"In sitcom school they tell you how great it is to have a long-running show, but they don't tell you how hard it is to say goodbye," said Hyde Pierce.

The ceremony highlighted the theme of last laughs, paying videotaped tribute not only to the three major series that ended their runs last season, but also many that came before including "Cheers," "Mad About You" and "Roseanne."

HBO's "Something the Lord Made" won best made-for-TV movie.

The most-nominated drama series was HBO's "The Sopranos" with 20, including bids for James Gandolfini and Edie Falco. Although both actors have won before, the mob story has yet to snatch the top drama award.

The benchmarks: "Eleanor and Franklin," whose 11 awards in 1976 are the most for any program in one season, and "Roots," the most-honored miniseries with nine awards in 1977.

The third Bob Hope Humanitarian Award was presented posthumously to actor, producer and philanthropist Danny Thomas, with his daughter, actress Marlo Thomas, accepting.

HBO led the nominations with its highest-ever total, 124. NBC was second with 65, followed by CBS with 44, Fox with 31 and ABC with 33. PBS earned 27 nominations. The awards are given by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Acting awards for guest roles were given out at a previous ceremony. Emmys for best guest actress and actor in a drama series went to William Shatner and Sharon Stone for episodes of "The Practice."

For guest actor and actress in a comedy series, the winners were Laura Linney for NBC's "Frasier" and John Turturro for USA's "Monk."



AP  
Miss Alabama Deidre Downs reacts as confetti falls around her after she won the 2004 Miss America Competition in Atlantic City, N.J., Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004.

## Miss America aims to aid kids with cancer

By JOHN CURRAN  
AP WRITER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Deidre Downs passed up medical school so she could compete for Miss America. Now she plans to spend her reign advocating for pediatric cancer victims.

"People don't like to associate cancer with children," she said Sunday. "Children with cancer need a voice, and I want to be that voice."

Downs, of Birmingham, Ala., outlasted 51 other women to win the pageant Saturday, impressing the judges with her smarts, beauty and singing prowess. Competing head-to-head against Miss Louisiana, Jennifer Dupont, Downs turned in a strong performance singing "I'm Afraid This Must Be Love."

The 5-foot-10 1/2-inch brunette graduated magna cum laude from Samford University in Birmingham. A Rhodes Scholar finalist, she was accepted to the University of Alabama's medical school in Birmingham but delayed her entry after winning the Miss Alabama title—on her fifth try.

"I guess I was just a sucker for punishment," she said.

Downs paid her way through college using nearly \$50,000 in scholarship money won competing for Miss Alabama. She'll get \$50,000 more for winning Miss America and could make several times that much in appearance fees during her yearlong reign.

Downs' victory capped a shorter Miss America telecast that showed more skin and fewer talent routines. Whether the changes succeeded isn't known yet. Nielsen Media Research ratings come out later this week.



AP  
Al Pacino accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a miniseries or a movie for his work on Angels in America at the 56th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

the 1980s AIDS crisis, won seven Emmys Sunday, including outstanding miniseries and acting trophies for Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, Mary-Louise Parker and Jeffrey Wright. Kushner received a best writing award and Mike Nichols won best director.

"As you know the fight against AIDS isn't over yet and we must do what we can for Africa. ... Let's see what we can do," Nichols said.

"Angels in America" proved a record breaker. With the four Emmys won Sept. 12 at the creative arts awards and the seven it won Sunday, it exceeded the nine awards won by "Roots" in 1977 to become the most honored miniseries. It

have to make a speech.

"There are so many people that are responsible for this, that if I even try to thank any of them right now, I might puke, choke, cry or die. And you've already seen me do that," said de Matteo, whose character was bumped off last season. She's now on NBC's "Friends" spinoff "Joey."

In some good news for the broadcast networks, Allison Janney of NBC's "The West Wing" and James Spader of ABC's "The Practice" won best actor awards for drama.

"You've all made wonderful choices in shoes and dresses tonight and you all look absolutely beauti-

# Dispute on Bush memos hovers over Rather

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—With questions swirling around documents used by CBS in a story about President Bush's National Guard service, Matt Sheffield experienced something unique. His Web site, Ratherbiased.com, crashed because of all the visitors. It was that kind of week for Dan Rather.

CBS acknowledged questions about memos that impugned the future president's military record—after partisan news outlets aggressively challenged CBS' sources ahead of traditional news organizations.

That attests to the influence of these news watchdogs, who have likely fed a growing suspicion of mainstream media and, some argue, made some journalists gun-shy.

Bloggers began buzzing about the documents within hours of Rather's Sept. 8 "60 Minutes" story. It's believed that the first news story was posted about midday Sept. 9 by the Cybercast News Service, formerly the Conservative News Service, and was quickly picked up by the Drudge Report.

CNS quoted three experts who suspected the document was produced by a computer, not a 1970s typewriter.

"We've done a lot of stories about this because we know a big chunk of our audience that is suspicious of all things liberal, is suspicious of liberal media as well," said David Thibault, CNS managing editor.



George W. Bush is seen with his unit in the Texas Air National Guard, bottom row behind banner, in an undated image released by the Department of Defense late Friday, Sept. 17, 2004. President Bush was in the National Guard from 1968 to 1973.

No site watches Rather more closely than Ratherbiased.com, started in 2000 by a Washington-area Web designer and his brother.

"We felt Dan Rather has accrued an undeserved reputation for being a great and fair journalist," said Sheffield, the site's managing editor. "A lot of times he does good work, but when politics comes into play a lot of times he lowers his standards."

Conservative-oriented Web sites such as NewsMax.com and Worldnetdaily.com also have a heavy concentration of media stories. The Media Research Center has voluminous files on the networks, and keeps a particularly close eye on ABC's Peter Jennings.

On the other side, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting monitors media from a liberal point of view, and demonstra-

tors during the GOP convention targeted Fox News Channel.

Yet this is an area dominated by conservatives, and no media figure incites deep-seated suspicion quite like Rather. If Ted Kennedy is their political bogeyman, Rather is their journalistic one.

They remember his famous exchange with former President Nixon in 1974. After Rather was applauded when he stood to ask a question, Nixon said, "are you running for something?" Rather snapped back: "No, sir, Mr. President. Are you?"

They remember Rather's testy 1988 interview with the current President Bush's father. And they remember Rather's ill-considered attendance at a 2001 Democratic fund-raiser in Texas.

Guard service, it's an attack, not a story.

Andrew Tyndall, who publishes a weekly newsletter on

the content of evening news programs, said he's seen no bias against Republicans by Rather.

"It's always mystified me why they pick on Rather," he said. "Day to day, on the 'CBS Evening News,' I really can't see it. If I was seeing it, I would be reporting on it. His reputation is so entrenched that his actual work is not going to do anything to change that."

"But, on the other hand, he shouldn't have gone with those memos."

Preoccupied by nailing down the truth about the memos, CBS News President Andrew Heyward wasn't much interested in talking about perceptions of bias.

"People have the right to expect our reporting to be accurate and fair," he said. "We obviously make a great deal of effort for it to be accurate and fair and I'll leave it to others to

decide if there are other issues that deserve exploration."

## Station denies firing host over Rather

By PEGGY ANDERSEN  
AP WRITER

**SEATTLE (AP)**—A radio station Sunday denied a talk show host's claim that he was fired because he criticized CBS newsmen Dan Rather's handling of challenges to the authenticity of memos about President Bush's National Guard service.

KIRO-AM Radio, a CBS affiliate here, canceled "The Brian Maloney Show" because of scheduling conflicts, the station's general manager said Sunday.

"The primary reason Brian

Maloney's show was canceled is because KIRO's broadcasts of the Seattle Seahawks football games significantly reduces our Sunday talk lineup and we felt the remaining time slots would be better filled by other hosts," Ken Berry said in a statement.

He said several hosts on the station "have criticized and continue to criticize Rather and CBS with no interference from management."

Berry initially declined to comment, saying the issue was a personnel matter.

Maloney, whose weekly show

aired for three years on KIRO-AM Radio, said he was fired Friday after telling listeners on Sept. 12 that "Rather should either retire or be forced out" over the memo controversy.

"What they have expressed is essentially that my show went in a direction they're not comfortable with," Maloney said Saturday.

Rather cited the memos, purportedly written by Bush's late squadron commander, in a Sept. 8 "60 Minutes II" segment. The memos indicated the commander was pressured to "sugar coat" Bush's performance and

that Bush ignored an order to take a physical.

Several document experts have said the memos look suspiciously like they were written on a computer, not a 1970s-era typewriter. Rather said Sept. 10 that there was no definitive evidence of forgery.

On Wednesday, the network said it would work harder to address concerns about the memos.

KIRO Radio is affiliated with CBS but owned by Entercom, a national radio broadcasting company based in Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

wallace

## Madonna addresses 'Kabbalah' conference

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)**—Pop star Madonna called for world peace Sunday at a conference on Jewish mysticism, a highlight of her five-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Israel hopes the star—the biggest pop celebrity to visit in years—will revive tourism battered by four years of Mideast violence, and government officials were on hand at a Tel Aviv hotel to share the spotlight, the glory and the photographs.

Madonna, wearing a low-cut dress with a black and white

leopard pattern, said she was hesitant to come to Israel "after seeing so many news reports about terror attacks."

"I realize now that it is no more dangerous to be here than it is to be in New York," she told the gathering.

Madonna was raised a Roman Catholic, but she has become an avid devotee of Jewish mysticism in recent years. She has adopted the Hebrew name Esther, wears a red thread on her wrist to ward off the evil eye and reportedly refuses to per-

form on the Jewish Sabbath.

Tourism officials hope the singer's well-publicized visit to Israel will calm fears that have kept many potential tourists away from the Holy Land, despite its religious and other attractions.

Israeli Tourism Minister Gideon Ezra said Madonna's visit was better than advertising for tourism.

"If she comes here and goes back and was happy with her visit, it means for a lot of people who were afraid to come here that they can come without any problem," Ezra said.

Speaking without notes, Madonna said the people she met during her five-day Holy Land trip "have one thing in common—we want to create peace in the world."

"We want to put an end to chaos and suffering," she said, "but most of all we want to put an end to hatred with no reason."

The singer said she was not representing a religion. Rather, she said, "I'm here as a student of Kabbalah. A Kabbalist sees the world as a unified whole. A Kabbalist asks why."

## Husband's sexual obsession takes toll on wife's health

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 13 years. During that time, my husband, "Newton," has had several affairs, but I forgave him and we managed to patch things up.

Around 1995, I noticed a change in Newton's sexual behavior. Porno magazines began arriving and charges showed up on our credit card for sexual sites on the Internet. I thought about leaving, but by then we had two daughters.

I recently went to visit my parents in another state for a weekend. It was the first time since our marriage that I went alone. While I was gone, Newton bought some kind of sexual-enhancer vitamins for women. We've always had an active sex life, and I didn't think I needed enhancers.

One morning I drove our girls to school, and when I returned home to do the breakfast dishes, I found "stuff" floating in the coffee pot. I confronted Newton. At first he denied it, but eventually he admitted that he had crushed two of the vitamins and put them in the coffee—after conveniently getting himself a cup first.

I have lost 17 pounds since then without trying. My doctor can find nothing wrong with me. I now wonder what Newton will do next, but honestly, nothing would surprise me anymore. My world revolved around him. I love him, but I know I am no longer IN love with him.

Abby, I came from a broken home. I never wanted that for my children. Newton knows this, and I think he uses it to his advantage. I am only here because of our children and because I'm not sure I have the confidence to start over.

TIRED OF PLAYING THE FOOL  
IN COLORADO

**DEAR TIRED:** For the sake of your health and sanity, it's time to separate and get some counseling. The coffee in your house isn't the only thing that's toxic. The alternative to finding the confidence to start over appears to be hiring a food taster.

It's a toss-up whether your husband is so hooked on pornography that he is out of touch with reality—and therefore expects you to perform with the abandon of a porn star—or whether he is totally without empathy for others. Either way, you and the girls will be safer away from him.

□ □ □ □

**DEAR ABBY:** Do you think it is possible to lead a happy, fulfilled life if you never fall in love with someone and have a lasting relationship? I have a good job, own my own home, have many wonderful friends, and I know I should not feel empty because I don't have a relationship—but I do.

LONELY IN TEXAS

**DEAR LONELY:** Of course it's possible. But not if the person is preoccupied with what he or she "might" be missing. What comes to mind are people who dedicate their lives to animals, various causes, and those who enter religious orders.

Since you would like to have a relationship, it's time to expand your circle of friends and activities and go online to see if you can find someone compatible. But please bear in mind that there are worse things than being alone, and one of them is being married to the wrong person.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*



*Dear Abby*

## Spears weds fiancé in surprise ceremony

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Pop singer Britney Spears married her fiancé, dancer Kevin Federline, in a surprise ceremony, her record label said Sunday.

"She did marry him yesterday," Jive Records spokeswoman Sonia Muckle said. She declined to provide further details.

The wedding was held Saturday evening at a private home in the Studio City area with 20 to 30 people attending, "Entertainment Tonight" said on its Web site.

Nicole King, a spokeswoman for BWR Public Relations, which represents Spears, did not return a message seeking comment.

Spears, 22, and Federline, 26, announced their engagement in June after dating since early this year.

It was the second marriage in nine months for Spears.

In January, she married childhood friend Jason Alexander in a surprise wedding in Las Vegas. That marriage was annulled 55 hours later.

Spears' label said Spears and Alexander had taken a joke too far. The bride wore a baseball cap and torn jeans down the aisle and was escorted by a casino limousine driver.

Federline appeared in the movie "You Got Served" and performed as a backup dancer for singer Justin Timberlake, Spears' former boyfriend.

He was previously involved with actress Shar Jackson of TV's "Moesha." They have two children - a 2-year-old and a newborn.

Britney Spears performs during her 'Onyx Hotel Tour' Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at Glendale Arena in Glendale, Ariz.

AP



## 'Sky Captain' tops box office with \$16.2M

By ALEX VEIGA  
AP WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**The debut flight of "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" landed the No. 1 weekend box office spot with an estimated \$16.2 million amid an overall lackluster turnout at theaters.

The \$70 million, film-noir-styled fantasy starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie cast its live actors against digitally animated giant robots on a backdrop of 1930s New York.

The film was originally slated to debut during the summer blockbuster season, but distributor Paramount pushed back the opening amid post-production delays.

"You gotta figure, with a project like this, you don't know what the response is going to be from the audience," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. "I think they maximized the potential of the movie by taking it out of the summer and putting it here because it was the only way it was going to be No. 1."



AP

Actor Jude Law and his girlfriend Sienna Miller react backstage at his ex-wife, fashion designer Sadie Frost's London Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2005 show, held at Titanic restaurant in central London, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004.

1. "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow," \$16.2 million.
2. "Mr. 3000," \$9.2 million.
3. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," \$9 million.
4. "Wimbledon," \$7.8 million.
5. "Cellular," \$6.87 million.
6. "Without a Paddle," \$3.7 million.
7. "Hero," \$2.95 million.
8. "Napoleon Dynamite," \$2.4 million.
9. "Collateral," \$2.3 million.
10. "Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," \$2 million.

Wayne Lewellen, Paramount's head of distribution, acknowledged the film might have drawn a larger opening audience as a summer release.

"Absolutely. You have a larger audience in summer than in the fall," Lewellen said. "I thought we had a great date in June prior to the opening of ("Spider-Man 2"). Unfortunately, they couldn't deliver the picture."

The film drew a largely older audience, according to studio tracking, which estimated 70 percent of viewers were over 25. About 55 percent of the audience was male, Paramount said.

"Just the look of the picture, the kind of retro look, probably had an appeal to an older audience," Lewellen said, adding that he hopes the film will attract younger audiences in the coming weeks.

Two other debut films broke into the box office top 10.

"Mr. 3000," a baseball comedy starring Bernie Mac, grabbed the No. 2 spot with a \$9.2 million. "Wimbledon," a romantic comedy starring Kirsten Dunst as a rising tennis player who falls for a fading tennis star played by British actor Paul Bettany, grabbed the No. 4 spot with \$7.8 million.

Mac plays a retired, egotistical baseball star trying to make a comeback. It's the first leading

film role for Mac, who stars in his own television show and has played several supporting characters in films like "Ocean's 11" and "Head of State."

"For Bernie Mac it's solid, in the context of the time of year and how the box office has been in a slump," Dergarabedian said.

Zombie attack fest "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," starring Milla Jovovich as a bath-towel-wearing heroine, earned \$9 million, a 61 percent tumble from its No. 1 debut last weekend.

"It's a pretty normal drop for the genre," said Rory Bruer, president of distribution for Sony Pictures.

"Wimbledon" appealed mostly to female viewers under 30, according to tracking by Universal Pictures.

"It's not a disappointment for us," said Paul Pflug, spokesman for the studio. "It's a movie that opened well, and we believe it will have some playability in the United States."

Overall traffic at movie theaters was down over the weekend. Viewership for the top 10 movies saw a decline of more than 25 percent compared to a year ago, when "Underworld" led the box office, Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

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# Pastimes

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TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	90	53	.629	-
Boston	86	56	.606	31/2
Baltimore	65	76	.461	24
Tampa Bay	61	80	.433	28
Toronto	59	84	.413	31

Central Division

Minnesota	82	60	.577	-
Chicago	72	70	.507	10
Cleveland	70	73	.490	121/2
Detroit	64	77	.454	171/2
Kansas City	51	91	.359	31

West Division

Oakland	83	59	.585	-
Anaheim	81	61	.570	2
Texas	78	64	.549	5
Seattle	53	89	.373	30

Yesterday's Games

Minnesota 8, Detroit 5  
N.Y. Yankees 9, Baltimore 7  
Texas 7, Toronto 6  
Tampa Bay 7, Kansas City 2  
Seattle 2, Boston 0  
Anaheim 11, Chicago White Sox 0  
Oakland 1, Cleveland 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	84	58	.592	-
Florida	74	65	.532	81/2
Philadelphia	74	69	.517	101/2
New York	61	81	.430	23
Montreal	59	83	.415	25

Central Division

St. Louis	94	48	.662	-
Chicago	76	64	.543	17
Houston	78	66	.542	17
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	281/2
Cincinnati	65	77	.458	29
Milwaukee	62	79	.440	311/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	59	.585	-
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San Francisco

79

65

.549

5

San Diego

76

67

.531

71/2

Colorado

62

80

.437

21

Arizona

43

100

.301

401/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 9, Montreal 8, 12 innings  
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 2  
Milwaukee 11, Cincinnati 0  
Florida 11, Chicago Cubs 1  
San Diego 15, Colorado 2  
St. Louis 7, Los Angeles 6  
San Francisco 5, Arizona 2  
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10 innings

NFL STANDINGS

AFC East

	W	L	T	Pct.
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000
New England	1	0	0	1.000
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000
Miami	0	1	0	.000

North

Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000

South

Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000
Houston	0	1	0	.000
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000
Oakland	0	1	0	.000

NFC East

Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000
Washington	1	0	0	1.000
Dallas	0	1	0	.000
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000

North

Detroit	1	0	0	1.000
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000
Chicago	0	1	0	.000

South

Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000
Carolina	0	0	0	.000
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000

West

Seattle	1	0	0	1.000
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000
Arizona	0	1	0	.000
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 20, Chicago 16  
N.Y. Jets 31, Cincinnati 24  
Pittsburgh 24, Oakland 21  
San Diego 27, Houston 20  
St. Louis 17, Arizona 10  
Washington 16, Tampa Bay 10  
Seattle 21, New Orleans 7  
Jacksonville 13, Buffalo 10  
Cleveland 20, Baltimore 3  
Atlanta 21, San Francisco 19  
Minnesota 35, Dallas 17  
Philadelphia 31, N.Y. Giants 17  
Denver 34, Kansas City 24

BELL CANADIAN OPEN SCORES

Final Round

(x-Won on third playoff hole)

x-Vijay Singh	68-66-72-69	275
Mike Weir	68-65-70-72	275
Joe Ogilvie	70-69-69-69	277
Justin Rose	70-70-75-63	278
Tom Lehman	74-70-70-64	278
Hunter Mahan	72-69-69-68	278
Stewart Cink	72-68-69-69	278
Robert Damron	72-71-70-66	279
Mark Hensby	70-69-70-71	280
Jesper Parnevik	69-66-71-74	280
Billy Andrade	67-75-71-68	281
David Sutherland	69-72-68-72	281
D.J. Brigman	67-74-67-73	281
Pat Perez	68-68-78-68	282

David Branshaw

71-65-75-71

282

Dean Wilson

71-70-69-72

282

Steve Lowery

70-69-70-73

282

Cliff Kresge

69-70-67-76

282

Jose Coceres

72-70-74-67

283

Arjun Atwal

71-67-75-70

283

Kenny Perry

71-67-74-71

283

Glen Day

70-69-70-74

283

Bill Haas

71-71-67-74

283

Casey Wittenberg

73-72-71-68

284

Chris DiMarco

69-71-73-71

284

Craig Perks

70-72-75-68

285

Bob Tway

74-71-70-70

285

Roland Thatcher

72-72-71-70

285

Corey Pavin

73-70-72-70

285

Bill Glasson

72-70-73-70

285

Brett Sindelar

66-73-74-72

285

Brett Quigley

69-71-73-72

285

Chad Campbell

73-68-72-72

285

David Peoples

69-70-73-73

285

Craig Barlow

67-69-75-74

285

Dudley Hart

72-73-73-68

286

David Edwards

72-69-74-71

286

Richard S. Johnson

73-70-71-72

286

Roger Tambellini

71-71-69-75

286

Dave Frost

73-71-71-72

287

Jason Bohn

73-70-72-72

287

Davis Love III

72-73-68-74

287

Greg Chalmers

71-72-70-74

287

Tommy Tolles

72-70-78-68

288

Esteban Toledo

76-68-72-72

288

Jonathan Byrd

72-70-69-77

288

Jim Rutledge

74-71-75-69

289

Mark Brooks

69-73-76-71

289

Fred Funk

74-70-72-73

289

Mark Wilson

74-70-71-74

289

Tim Petrovic

72-70-73-74

289

Steve Flesch

73-71-75-71

290

David Duval

71-72-76-71

290

Omarr Uresti

74-70-74-72

290

Todd Fischer

71-71-75-73

290

Tag Ridings

68-76-72-74

290

Phil Mickelson

75-69-79-68

291

Jim McGovern

71-72-76-72

291

Billy Mayfair

70-74-72-75

291

Neal Lancaster

71-70-75-75

291

Garrett Willis

71-74-75-72

292

Tom Carter

72-71-76-73

292

Dennis Paulson

69-72-75-76

292

Brian Kortan

71-74-70-77

292

Paul Azinger

72-68-74-78

292

Aaron Barber

72-73-75-73

293

Jim Carter

72-69-78-74

293

Danny Briggs

69-73-77-74

293

Justin Leonard

76-66-77-74

293

Dicky Pride

72-72-77-73

294

Grant Waite

75-70-73-76

294

Larry Mize

76-68-74-76

294

David Morland IV

70-73-73-78

294

Dirk Ayers

72-71-79-73

295

Kevin Sutherland

74-71-75-75

295

John Rollins

74-71-74-76

295

Andre Stolz

71-74-77-74

296

Chris Couch

71-71-79-83

304

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

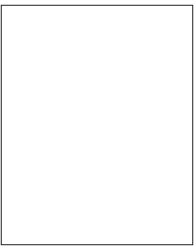
SEATTLE MARINERS-Called up LHP Randy Williams from Tacoma of the PCL.  
NEW YORK METS-Placed RHP Matt Ginter on the 60-day DL. Recalled OF Victor Diaz from Norfolk of the IL.  
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES-Activated RHP Kevin Millwood from the 15-day DL.

NFL

ATLANTA FALCONS-Waived S Etric Pruitt. Signed LB Terrence Melton from the practice squad.  
BUFFALO BILLS-Reached an injury settlement with QB Travis Brown.  
GREEN BAY PACKERS-Signed CB Al Harris to a five-year contract extension. Released TE Steve Bush.  
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS-Activated S Bob Sanders. Waived FB Cary Davis. Signed DT Jason Stewart to the practice squad.  
MIAMI DOLPHINS-Released RB Fred Russell from the practice squad. Signed RB Leonard Henry to the practice squad.  
MINNESOTA VIKINGS-Signed OT Mike Rosenthal to a six-year contract extension.  
OAKLAND RAIDERS-Activated CB Charles Woodson. Traded DT Chris Cooper to Dallas for future considerations.  
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS-Waived TE Kevin Ware. Signed FB Matt Stanley from the practice squad.  
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS-Activated OT Walter Jones. Signed WR Jerheme Urban to the practice squad. Waived G Jerry Wunsch.

By The Associated Press

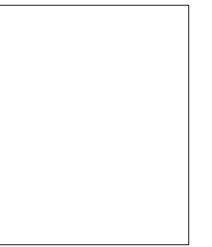




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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE